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Japan

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Energy-Saving Measures Taken

OW1308072990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—The government decided Monday to take several energy-saving measures to make the country better prepared for a possible oil crunch due to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said. The steps, including using less air conditioning and cutting office illumination, are similar to those taken after Iran stopped oil exports in 1978, the move that triggered the second oil crisis, the officials said.

The ministry and other government organizations will carry out the proposed energy-saving measures themselves and ask the private sector and the general public to follow suit. Among the proposals are limiting air conditioning to 28 degrees celsius or higher and turning off about one-third of office illumination.

Also recommended are effective use of elevators and driving cars at economical speeds, such as 80 kilimeters per hour on expressways. These combined measures could save as much as 4.7 million kiloliters of crude oil, or 4.4 percent of the total industrial use, according to the officials. That amounts to the equivalent of roughly 80 days of imports from Iraq and Kuwait.

If the situation in the Middle East worsens, the government will consider stricter energy-saving measures like neon blackouts and no services at gas stations on holidays, the officials said.

Exchange Laws Revision Planned

OW1308094790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—The government on Monday decided on plans to revise laws governing foreign exchange controls and trade to carry out Japan's economic sanctions against Iraq, officials said. The plans, subject to formal approval by the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at Tuesday's meeting, will affect the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law and the export trade control order, they said.

The decision came at a meeting of administrative vice ministers following Japan's announcement on August 5 that it was putting a ban on oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait and suspending exports to the two countries in protest against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The legal measures, slated to take effect on August 22, will make it impossible to do business with and export to the two countries without approval by the finance minister or the minister of international trade and industry. They will also require such approval in cases of shipping third country-passed through cargoes loaded in Iraq and Kuwait or designated for the two countries.

U.S. Gulf Blockade 'Permissible'

OW1508121290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—A U.S. blockade of the Persian Gulf as part of international sanctions against Iraq is permissible under the United Nations Charter, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday. The official, who declined to be identified by name, said, however, that the Japanese Government will withhold official comment on the U.S. move pending further developments.

The official said a U.N. resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait is aimed primarily at economic actions and does not serve as a basis for the U.S. decision to blockade the Gulf. He said, however, that Article 51 of the U.N. Charter recognizes the right of collective defense, making it possible for the United States to blockade the Gulf in response to the requests from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. contended that blockading Iraqi ships sailing through the Persian Gulf is an effort aimed at effectively implementing the U.N. resolution. U.S. President George Bush pointed this out in a news conference Tuesday in response to criticisms of the U.S. action.

Showa Shell Denies Plans To Raise Oil Prices

OW1308050590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. President Takeshi Henmi denied Monday that the company plans to raise prices of oil products as reported last week. Henmi apologized for an "inappropriate explanation" that led to the report.

Henmi visited Kenjiro Ogata, director general of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency, to clarify the company's stance and apologize for causing the misunderstanding, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) sources said. In the meeting, Henmi said, "We have decided nothing yet (on a raise of prices) as the situation is still quite volatile," the sources said.

Hiroshi Otaka, managing director of the oil company, was reported Friday as saying the recent upswing in crude oil prices will push up costs for oil products by 5 to 6 yen per liter. Otaka's words were perceived by the press as a declaration of the firm's intention to boost prices to cover higher costs due to surging crude oil prices, and made headlines in major media outlets.

Henmi told Ogata he was very sorry for the inappropriate remarks made at a press conference announcing the company's mid-term business record, the sources said. Ogata reportedly told Henmi that oil price trends should be watched closely and called for discretion in coping with the situation.

Defense Chief Meets U.S. Defense Official

OW1108055690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Washington, Aug. 10 KYODO—A senior United States defense official Friday called on Japan to boost its sea-lane defense capability and ensure early agreement over the shared cost of U.S. troops stationed in Japan. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense John Laughlin told visiting Japanese Defense Agency Director General Kazuo Fujii that he hopes Japan will step up its sea-lane defense capability to secure free passage for its ships on the approaches to Japan.

Laughlin reportedly raised the issue of U.S. supply of the Advanced Airborne Warning and Command System (AWACS) when Fujii explained Japan's next multiyear defense program which commences in Fiscal 1991. The U.S. is demanding that Japan finance all local costs of stationing some 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan.

The U.S. side stressed the significance of cooperation among the allies against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Okinawa Official Discusses U.S. Presence

Part One

OW1308123090 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 3 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 5

["Open letter" from Yomitan, Okinawa Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi: "Dear Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and commander of the U.S Forces Japan"; Part One of Three]

[Text]**I. Immediate Return of Yomitan Airfield Demanded as Consensus of Yomitan Village People**

The people of Yomitan Village had entertained great expectations that the Yomitan auxiliary airfield would be included in the "List of U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa To Be Returned," dated 19 June. This was because they have consistently called for its return since reversion. It was also because the Japanese Government indicated its plan to resolve the issue, respecting land utilization plans of local authorities with the understanding that it is a postwar disposal case. The local authority, the Yomitan Village Office, formulated a "Basic Plan for Diversion of Yomitan Airfield" and submitted it to the Okinawa Prefectural Government, as well as to the pertinent Japanese and U.S. authorities, and has called for its return.

However, the village people's expectations and desperate requests were completely betrayed. Should the Japanese and U.S. officials concerned take the matter lightly and try to dissipate the village people's anger and fury with the Security Treaty and Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA], it would be tantamount to an absence of either administration or politics and leave nothing but a physical struggle between the local populace and U.S. forces. I am concerned about this.

The present site of Yomitan airfield was fine farmland before the war. The Japanese Government (Japanese Army), which recklessly opened the Japanese-U.S. war, created an airfield, forcibly expropriating the land from the landlords beginning in the summer of 1943, acceptng no refusal under the pretext of winning the war. In carrying out the expropriation, the Japanese Army explained that the land would be returned when the war was over.

On 1 April 1945 U.S. forces landed on Okinawa from the west coast in Yomitan village, occupied Yomitan airfield within the day and have, to date, been unilaterally using it as a U.S. military base. I hope that both the Japanese Government and the U.S. military authorities will take seriously the fact that 45 years have elapsed without the issue having been put to postwar disposal.

The landlords, whose land was forcibly expropriated, are waiting impatiently for the return of their land.

It is the responsibility and duty of the government to set postwar matters right. I hope that the government will fulfill those first. Specifically, the agency which is charged with that work is the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] and Okinawa General Office. I hope that they will come to grips with the matter in an earnest and concrete manner.

Next, I want to address the U.S. military authorities in Okinawa (Japan). Okinawa today is not under occupation. The relationship is not one between occupation forces and the people of an occupied country. Are you aware how much the local populace suffer from and are distressed by the military priority policy and intensified exercises of U.S. forces? Are there villages in the United States, your country, where soldiers conduct parachute drop exercises, laughing derisively in the middle of a village or on the street where people live, brushing aside the opposition of the local people? Please let me know if there are any.

Both the Japanese Government and U.S. forces stress security, but can you stress security when aircraft circle over eight elementary, junior high, and high schools in the middle of the village, disturbing classes which require quiet?

The selfish parachute drop exercises by U.S. forces do not involve security issues; they are nothing but an affront and discrimination against the people of Yomitan village. You should know that there is a limit to the patience and tolerance of the village people.

I appeal to the United States, a country of democracy, and U.S. forces in Okinawa (particularly the Marines and the Green Berets) of the United States, which taught us democracy, social justice and the value of human rights, of which it boasts to the world, with the sincere desire of the people of Yomitan village.

II. Major Replies From the Japanese Government and U.S. Forces Concerning Yomitan Airfield

In response to the desperate request of the Yomitan village people for the return of Yomitan airfield, the pertinent Japanese and U.S. agencies have given the following particulars and promises (replies): I would like to make it clear to all the people and the entire U.S. forces in Okinawa (Japan) through the press, and call for the immediate fulfillment of the promises.

(1) In June, 1965, in the wake of an accident in which a little girl was crushed to death by a trailer suspended from a parachute, Maj Gen Albert Clark, of the U.S. Air Force 313th Air Division, replied to the Yomitan Village Office to the effect that he wanted to examine the relocation of the parachute drop training site.

(2) In June, 1979, Asao Mihara, then director general of the Okinawa Development Agency, testified to the Diet that he would resolve the diversion plan for Yomitan airfield through consultations with the Finance Ministry if it were put forward by the Yomitan Village Office or the prefectural government.

Part Two

OW1308145190 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 5

["Open letter" from Yomitan, Okinawa Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi: "Dear Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and commander of the U.S. forces Japan"; Part Two of Three]

[Text] (3) In December 1979, Colonel Richard E. Houze of the U.S. Marine Corps Okinawa, in reply to the Yomitan Village Office's request, said that local U.S. military authorities were examining the relocation of the training site. He further said that he would inform us if relocation of the training site is decided between Japan and the United States.

(4) In December 1979, Takeo Nemoto, (then) director of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB], in reply to the Yomitan Village Office's request, said that parachute exercises on Yomitan airfield were inappropriate, and he would make efforts for their relocation.

(5) In October 1980, it was agreed at the 455th meeting of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee to establish a special work team to promote the relocation of the parachute training site.

(6) In March 1985, it was resolved at the 102d meeting of the House of Representatives Audit Committee that the government should strive to help promote an early utilization of the site of Yomitan airfield and report the government's plan to the next ordinary Diet session.

(7) In February 1986, (then) Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said, in his report to the Diet on the government's plan, "I plan to address the Yomitan airfield issue, respecting the land utilization plan of the local authorities."

(8) There have been the above-mentioned particulars about Yomitan airfield. Two former directors of the Naha DFAB (I dare not reveal their names) replied definitely to the Yomitan Village Office that the parachute training site in Yomitan airfield would be relocated by 1987 (62d year in the Showa era).

(9) A former Naha DFAB director, who was transferred to the post of director of the General Affairs Department at the Defense Facilities Administration Agency last July, told village representatives: "I will do my best to help relocate the parachute exercise site from Yomitan airfield during my tenure." He expressed this resolve when he was presented the first request from Yomitan village after assuming the post of director of the Naha DFAB on 20 June 1988. The village people had entertained great expectations. How disappointing!

III. Pertinent Agencies of Japanese and U.S. Governments Should Keep Their Promises To the People

As is manifest in the above-stated items from (1) to (9), the Japanese Government and U.S. forces indicated to Yomitan village a stated commitment to resolving the Yomitan airfield issue. The year for the relocation of the exercise site, which the Naha DFAB, the working-level agency concerned, indicated to Yomitan village, was 1987 (62d year in the Showa era). Yomitan village has not forgotten this.

More importantly, the Japanese prime minister reported to the Diet in accordance with a Diet resolution, "I plan to address the issue, respecting the land utilization plans of local authorities."

In accordance with the report, the Yomitan Village Office worked out a basic plan for the diversion of Yomitan Airfield in 1987. In June 1989 (1st year in the Heisei era), a basic concept for the Second Yomitan Village Comprehensive Plan was unanimously approved by the village assembly. In the concept, Yomitan airfield is defined as a key point for the development of the village and town in the 21st century.

From the above course of developments, the village people had expected and believed that Yomitan airfield would naturally be included in the latest (19 June) list of U.S. military bases to be returned.

The Naha DFAB did not honor its own promise for "the relocation of the exercise site by 1987," and the airfield was not placed on the list of bases to be returned, thus completely betraying the expectations and trust of the village people. Is this proper?

IV. Yomitan Village People Will Rise Up Calling For Postwar Disposal of Yomitan Airfield and Materialization of Its Diversion Plan

Today, at least, there exists a government. The government should be a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" as Lincoln said. This notwithstanding, the attitude of the government or efforts of government officials with respect to the Yomitan airfield issue can never be said to be adequate. This is regrettable indeed.

Why do we have government and government officials? Why do they not honor their promises? The people of Yomitan village are by no means asking something impossible or unreasonable of the Japanese Government and U.S. forces. The government, which started the war, is naturally responsible for and duty-bound on the issue postwar disposal.

Part Three

OW1508001390 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 7 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 5

["Open letter" from Yomitan, Okinawa, Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi: "Dear Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Commander of the U.S. Forces Japan"; Part Three of Three]

[Text] Officials at the Defense Facilities Administration Agency and Foreign Ministry, have you thought about how the people of Yomitan Village feel after personally experiencing countless numbers of accidents and incidents during 45 years since the war? The letters "Yomitan Airfield" could be found nowhere in the 19 June list of military bases to be returned. The village people were filled with mixed feelings, and no one tried to conceal his anger.

To: Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu

We have made dozens of desperate requests to the pertinent government ministries and agencies, as well as to the Diet, to please give thoughtful consideration to the resolution of the Yomitan Airfield issue, since it is a postwar disposal case. As a result, the Government has shown some direction in resolving the issue. However, government officials have not made any effective, proper efforts. If the village people's sincere request is not granted and thus the resolution of the issue is further delayed, the people of Yomitan Village would have no choice but to rise up in accordance with the laws of history.

Does the Japanese Government not realize the gravity of not even honoring its own promise? Do officials (government officials) not carry into practice even policy indicated by the prime minister? I raise this question anew to Prime Minister Kaifu through the press. I shall be happy if I receive your reply through the pertinent government agencies.

V. To: U.S. Forces Okinawa (Green Berets and the Marine Corps)

(A) To: Marine Corps Commander

I would believe that you have already read the complicated course of developments involving Yomitan Airfield. On the premise that you have read it, I would like to make the following request of you:

I cordially request of you, commander of the Marine Corps, who is charged with the management of Yomitan Airfield, to understand the position of the Yomitan village people on the resolution of the Yomitan Airfield issue and give special consideration from the spirit of American democracy and generosity to help relocate the parachute exercise site, thus putting the issue to postwar disposal.

(B) To: Green Berets Commander

Despite the fact that the Green Berets are stationed at Torii Station in Yomitan, the same village in which we live, the commander of the Green Berets has not given me an opportunity to meet him, even when I requested a meeting.

You Green Berets may be proud of yourselves as members of the Special Force and of your mission. But, I wish to ask if the Green Berets carry out exercises in the middle of a village like Yomitan and at places where villagers oppose them on the U.S. mainland, too?

Are you not aware how much mental pressure the buzzing of helicopters during parachute drop exercises imposes on the Yomitan village people and how much it hampers the livelihood of the villagers (in commuting to work or school and in carrying out farm work)?

Under the U.S. Constitution, the American citizens' right to happiness is guaranteed. Just as the American people have the right to happiness, so have the people of Yomitan Village the right to happiness. Have you thought of how much the buzzing of helicopters during the Green Beret exercises hampers class instruction for elementary, junior high, and high school students in Yomitan Village as your own problem?

Since the Japanese (Okinawan) political and military situations do not require the Green Berets, who are called war professionals, please pull out of Okinawa (Yomitan) at the earliest possible date. In view of the fact that the Green Berets are involved in almost all the latest parachute drop exercises, your withdrawal will help Okinawa (Yomitan) become quiet.

There is a saying which goes, "Tread on a worm and it will turn." It goes without mentioning American history (the War of Independence or the Civil War) that the downtrodden and oppressed masses will rise up. The recent collapse of the Berlin Wall was made possible by democracy and the power of the masses.

Somehow, 48 percent of the total area of Yomitan village is under requisition as U.S. military bases. Speaking for the consensus of the 30,000 people of the base village, I strongly call for a halt to parachute exercises and for the immediate return of the site to the people of Yomitan Village.

Green Berets and Marines of the United States, a democratic country, please grant the justifiable request of the Yomitan village people.

It will be a way to respect the pride, honor, and democracy of the great United States to grant the cordial appeal of the village people. At the same time, it will be a way leading to peace and God.

Komeito Dietman Proposes Rice Import Level

OW1108012690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 10 KYODO—Japan could import up to half a million tons of rice per year by 2002 by partially opening its market and then gradually raising imports, a Diet member from Komeito, Japan's second-largest opposition party, said Friday.

Takenori Kanzaki, chairman of Komeito's Policy Board, cited the figure in a discussion with other Diet members recorded for a television program. He suggested that Japan set a quota of 100,000 to 200,000 tons for rice imports in 1992 and increase the amount by 10 percent every year for the following 10 years.

In that way, Japanese farmers could still produce 9.5 million tons of rice per year, compared with the present 10 million tons, he said, stressing the idea would be effective to defuse pressure from the United States on the issue, as well as to protect the Japanese agricultural industry.

Komeito has pushed the idea of a partial opening of the rice market since June and has warned that Japan will come up against tough decisions in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks unless it agrees to partial opening of its rice market. The talks, held under the auspices of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), are due to finish in December after four years of negotiations.

Kanzaki added that the 1988 Diet resolution on a total rice import ban should be reexamined if necessary, because the political and economical situation surrounding the rice issue has changed since then. "Japan needs to make efforts to cope with reality," he said.

Disagreeing, Mutsuki Kato, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party, stressed the importance of the 1988 resolution.

"More than half of the Diet members who made the resolution in 1988 have been reelected and are currently serving," the former farm minister said. Moreover, Japan should not make a new offer of eliminating government subsidies on rice, Kato added.

Kaifu Optimistic About Relations With USSR

OW1408095890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev Tuesday that he shares Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's "optimism" about the future of Japan-Soviet relations. Kaifu, in a brief meeting with Solovyev, said Gorbachev had previously conveyed to him through emissaries his "optimism" about bilateral ties, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Kaifu also asked Solovyev to tell Gorbachev that he shares the Soviet leader's feelings and hopes for friendly and stable ties with Moscow, officials said. While the relationship between Japan and the Soviet Union is still young it is up to the two countries to nurture those ties, Kaifu said.

Solovyev, who will step down next Monday from the post he has held since June 1986 to assume the ambassadorship to China, expressed disappointment at the insufficiency of efforts at resolving "all problems" existing between the two countries, officials said.

The problems Solovyev cited were Japan's longstanding call for the return of four Soviet-held islands, as well as its spurning of Soviet calls for expanded economic ties and a dialogue on regional security, officials said.

The Soviet envoy suggested each side approach the task of improving relations by adopting a mind-set of determination, officials said. "I am certain that this would broach a good opportunity," he was quoted as saying.

"If the Japanese prime minister and the Soviet president feel that things must be done, they will be compelled to do them," he said. Solovyev told Kaifu that the foundation for improved ties were laid during his term as ambassador.

The envoy's meeting with Kaifu came ahead of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's scheduled visit to Tokyo in early September and a visit by Gorbachev in the spring of 1991.

Government To Explain Plans To Help Chernobyl

OW1408141390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Japan will explain its plan to help victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant accident when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visits in early September, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. The government, which recently received a detailed Soviet proposal for bilateral cooperation on the issue, hopes to have a response ready by the time Shevardnadze comes to Tokyo, the officials said.

"While we may not be ready by then to annouce specifics, we at least expect to be able to give the Soviets an indication of the direction we are aiming at," said one official.

Officials said the Soviet proposal on Chernobyl cooperation was presented to Japan immediately after a deputy ministerial-level meeting in Moscow in late July, where the Japanese side indicated that Japan would positively respond to a formal Soviet Government request for assistance. The proposal is now being considered among the ministries concerned, with additional input from medical professionals, they said.

Last Saturday, Japanese Ambassador to Moscow Sumio Edamura told Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Doguzhiyev that Japan is willing to actively assist in Chernobyl-related efforts, both bilaterally and multilaterally, officials said.

Japan first extended government-level cooperation in January 1987 by hosting a delegation of Soviet medical specialists, officials said.

A series of symposiums and joint studies have also been held since December 1988, when radiological medicine experts cooperated at a session of the Japan-Soviet Commission for Scientific-Technological Cooperation.

Optical-Fiber Submarine Cable Planned to China

OW1308143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—KDD [Telegraph & Telephone Corporation], Japan's international telecommunications giant, agreed Monday with China's Post and Telecommunications Ministry and American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT and T) to lay a submarine optical-fiber cable between Japan and China, a KDD spokesman said.

A memorandum of agreement signed by them also covers a plan to construct digital satellite communication facilities in China to be linked to the International Telecommunications Satellite (Intelsat) system, he said.

The optical-fiber undersea cable, the first of its kind to cover China, will run some 1,300 kilometers between Miyazaki in southern Kyushu and Shanghai. The operation is expected to start at the end of 1993, the spokesman said.

The 10 billion yen cable will have two communications circuits, each with a capacity of 560 megabits. The cable will be connected with the trans-Pacific cable (TPC-4), due to be installed by 1992 between the United States and Japan, enabling China to participate in the global digital communication network, the KDD official said.

Meanwhile, the Intelsat facilities will be completed sometime next year, linking Beijing and Shanghai with Japan and the United States, he said.

The planned projects are private-sector initiatives and will not be affected by the international sanctions imposed against the Chinese Government since the military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in June last year, the spokesman added.

Ministry Approves Mongolian Air Charter Flight

OW1108013190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 10 KYODO—The Ministry of Transport has approved an application by the Mongolian national airline to operate charter flights between Niigata and Ulaanbaatar, a ministry official said Friday.

The flight, using a TU154 capable of carrying 132 passengers, will be inaugurated in the middle of this month, the official said. The first charter flight will leave Niigata for Ulaanbaatar with 132 Japanese tourists on board on August 16 and is scheduled to return on August 23.

Until recently, as no regular airline route was available between Japan and Ulaanbaatar, flight services have been provided via Beijing or Khabarovsk.

JSP Goodwill Mission Leaves for DPRK

OW1408135690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Niigata, Aug. 14 KYODO—A goodwill mission led by members of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) departed by ship Tuesday for North Korea, where they will serve as an "advance group" for Japanese party delegations scheduled to visit Pyongyang in early September.

The 213-member delegation, which is being led by JSP House of Representatives member Taneaki Tanami and includes three other JSP lawmakers, will land at the North Korean port of Wonsan on Thursday. They are scheduled to visit Mt. Kumgang, Pyongyang, and Panmunjom, before returning August 25.

Members of the Japan-North Korea Friendship Association will also make up the mission.

Tanami is scheduled to meet members of North Korea's Workers' Party to discuss the planned visit September 4 of a delegation of members from the JSP and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Although Japanese visitors normally have to receive visas to enter North Korea in third countries such as China or the Soviet Union, members of the goodwill mission will be given visas when they arrive at Wonsan. The visa agreement between North Korean authorities and the JSP is being taken as a sign, among Japanese observers, of a more flexible stance and a desire by Pyongyang to improve relations with Tokyo.

The mission from eastern Japan, traveling on the Japan-North Korea friendship and goodwill ship, will be followed by a 200-member group from western Japan on August 30.

MITI To Use Computer for Cocom Exports Check

OW1508104590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) plans to establish a computer network to augument checks on exports to prevent Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls]-restricted products from finding their way into communist countries, MITI sources said.

MITI investigates requests for export permits to check for companies that have violated the regulations of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) or those on an international blacklist for past exports of products restricted by Cocom. Since there are only about 20 MITI officials currently to handle some 280,000 annual requests for export permits, it is virtually impossible to probe all the cases.

MITI will build up a database to store information on Cocom restrictions and violations sent in from around the world. The new computer network will make the inspection far more effective and reliable, according to the sources.

MITI will earmark 200 million yen in the fiscal 1991 budget to enable it to put the new system into partial use from fiscal 1992, the sources said.

Government To Extend Yen Aid to Thailand

OW1308145090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—Japan will extend a total of 4,776 million yen in grant assistance to Thailand, including funds for transportation improvements and environmental training and research, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Officials said the economic assistance to Thailand was formally pledged in Bangkok on Monday in an exchange of notes between Japanese diplomats and Thai Government officials.

Up to 862 million yen of the grant aid was set aside for the second phase of a project to establish an environmental research and training center. Officials said the enviromental center, which is expected to be completed by the end of 1991, will be the first of its kind to be funded by Japan in the region of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Japan also will provide up to 2,636 million yen for a project to construct viaducts on the Rama IV Road, which runs through the central part of Bangkok, to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce exhaust pollution.

Another 1,229 million yen is earmarked for a project to construct bridges in northeastern Thailand with a view to upgrading the standard of living in the relatively poor rural region through an improved transportation network.

Some 49 million yen in cultural grants, meanwhile, will be contributed to Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University to buy a new Japanese telescope for astronomical observation.

45th Anniversary of End of WW II Marked

OW1508103090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Japan marked the 45th anniversary of the end of World War II Wednesday with a minute's silence and speeches by Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the annual government-held memorial service in Tokyo.

In the presence of 7,600 bereaved family members and others in Tokyo's Budokan Hall, the emperor said he "renews his deep sorrow" when he thinks of those who lost their lives in the war and their bereaved families. White and yellow chrysanthemums were arranged at the back of the podium in the hall where a wooden pillar stood as a monument to the war dead.

The gathering observed a minute's silence at noon when on August 15, 1945, the emperor's father, the late Emperor Showa, made a nationwide radio announcement accepting the terms of the surrender laid down in the Potsdam Declaration by the allied nations. "Fourty-five years have already gone by since the end of the war, bringing today's peace and prosperity thanks to the unceasing efforts of the nation," Emperor Akihito said. "But I can never stop being strongly moved when I look back on the turbulent past."

Empress Michiko accompanied the emperor. Both bowed deeply before the wooden monument.

Flags flew at half mast at the Diet, courts and other public buildings in Tokyo as well as many places across the country under clear summer skies and sweltering heat, reminiscent of the same day 45 years ago.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the gathering he would strive to "establish world peace and realize true prosperity for Japan by being in harmony with the world community," ' and "by never giving those who did not return cause to think their pleas were futile and by imprinting deep in our heart the lessons we learned from the war."

Speaker of the House of Representatives Yoshio Sakurauchi, President of the House of Councillors Yoshihiko Tsuchiya and Chief Judge of the Supreme Court Ryohachi Kusaba also made speeches to commemorate Japan's 3.1 million World War II dead. Representatives of opposition parties were also present.

Bereaved family members came from all 47 prefectures. A Korean man who leads a group of relatives of Koreans killed in the war, and bereaved families seeking compensation attended the meeting.

The 3.1 million war victims, composed of 2.3 million military personnel and civilians, include Koreans, Chinese and Taiwanese who died in the course of the war. But no speech-makers specifically referred to their deaths in Wednesday's ceremony. Korea was under Japan's colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

Meanwhile, at a separate memorial ceremony sponsored by the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and trade unionists, JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi urged the government and the Diet to frankly admit Japan's responsibility as an aggressor in World War II. She called for an apology to Asian countries that suffered from Japan's aggression and said Japan should reconcile with and normalize relations with all Koreans. Japan has diplomatic relations with South Korea but not with the north.

The Korean residents union in Japan said more than 200,000 of the 1.1 million Koreans Japan drafted during the war for military service or wartime labor were killed or unaccounted for.

As part of the day's memorial activities, 13 cabinet members and nearly 200 Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party visited Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine in honor of the war dead. Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama did not visit the shrine to avoid offending neighboring Asian countries. The shrine is dedicated to over two million Japanese war dead, including Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and other war criminals.

Local ceremonies also took place across Japan Wednesday, including services to mourn civilians killed in U.S. bombings of Japanese cities, and others to pledge peace and cherish Japan's no-war Constitution.

Opposition Expresses Condolences

OW1408141590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Opposition parties Tuesday offered condolences for war victims in World War II on the eve of marking the 45th anniversary of Japan's surrender to the allies forces.

The largest opposition Japan Socialist Party issued a statement, saying it is proud of its consistent defense of the war-renouncing Japanese Constitution and its serious quest for a peaceful international order, disarmament, and the promotion of the Japanese people's living standard. The statement said the party calls for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East at a time when the world has been moving from the cold war era to one of disarmament and peace.

Komeito, Japan's second largest opposition party, said in a statement that the party is working for world peace in accord with the spirit of "the dignity of life" and "global democratization." The statement called for a 10 percent cut in the world's military expenses under United Nations guidelines and the participation of the Soviet Union in the annual summit meeting of the seven industrialized nations.

A Japan Communist Party statement mentioned "aggression" by the United States in Panama and by Iraq in Kuwait, saying the invasion of one country by another is a threat to world peace.

The Democratic Socialist Party also issued a statement, saying Japan should make every effort to resolve conflicts such as the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in accord with its strength as a nation.

More Foreign Students Seek To Stay for Work

OW1208093890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 12 KYODO—The number of Asian and other foreign students in Japanese universities or tertiary institutions seeking jobs in Japan after graduation is rising, the Justice Ministry said Sunday.

The number of foreign students applying for a change in their visa status to work permit jumped from 592 in 1988 to 949 in 1989, the ministry said. The figure was 270 in 1985. Some 70 percent of the foreign student graduates are employed on a contract basis, and not under the life-time system common among most Japanese employees.

Foreign students who came to Japan during the five-year period between 1985 and 1989 totaled 30,240. Of these, 2,777, or 9.2 percent, applied for work permits after graduation. In 1980-1984, the rate was 8.1 percent, the ministry's immigration bureau said. The bureau said that recruitment of foreign nationals with expert skills "vitalizes business activities and helps companies internationalize."

Government policy is "to make it a rule to allow employment of foreign nationals, if judged appropriate, after examining such things as the management of the firms, personal suitability of applicants and proposed employment conditions," the ministry said.

Among the 1989 applicants, however, the immigration authorities approved changes of status for 707 students, or 74.5 percent of the applicants. In 1988, 522 of 592 applicants, or 88 percent got work visas. In 1989, Chinese students at universities or graduate schools accounted for 217 of the 707. Taiwanese numbered 170, followed by 78 Malaysians, 74 South Koreans, 18 Thais and 15 Britons.

Electronics- and computer-related firms in Japan offered jobs for 178 foreign graduates while trading houses or distribution companies employed 85, and 56 were recruited by construction firms. Banks, securities houses and other finance-related companies employed 49 and another 49 sought jobs at universities, language schools and other educational facilities.

Some became secretaries to Japanese lawmakers and others went to broadcasting stations and law offices, the bureau said. Specific names of firms were not available from the ministry.

The number of incoming foreigners as students at universities or centers of higher education has risen steadily recently, up from 4,797 in 1985 to 7,777 in 1989.

Among students who got work permits, the share of those majoring in scientific fields rose from 35 percent in 1988 to 40 percent last year. Many of them work as programmers, systems engineers or architects. Other posts vary widely from translation or work that involves business negotiations with foreign partners, public relations, business consulting, or financial analysis.

Workers on short-term contracts made up 68 percent of the total while others were recruited as life-time employees.

Defense Agency To Clarify Nonnuclear Principles

OW1308093790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0909 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—The Defense Agency has decided to clarify three nonnuclear principles as Japan's basic national policy in the 1990 annual defense white paper to be published in September, agency sources said Monday.

Last year's annual report on defense said merely that Japan will maintain three nonnuclear principles, though earlier white papers had specified that Japan holds fast to the three principles of not possessing nuclear weapons, not producing them and not permitting their introduction into Japan as a matter of national policy.

Opposition parties accused the government of changing the phrase in the 1989 defense white paper, saying the government changed defense policy. In response to opposition accusations, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu promised to order the Defense Agency to stress the principles as Japan's basic national policy in its 1990 white paper.

The agency has explained that the phrase changes were merely editorial in nature. But there have been speculations that the Defense Agency intended to drop one of the three nonnuclear principles—not to introduce nuclear weapons into Japan.

The sources said "fierce" arguments arose as to whether the principles should be emphasized as the country's basic national policy in the 1990 defense report, adding some agency officials argued to do so is a retreat of Japan's defense policy.

Government To Strengthen Trade Ombudsman System

OW1308065290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—In an attempt to fulfill its pledge on the bilateral trade talks with the United States, the Japanese Government decided Monday to strengthen its trade ombudsman system.

The 15th meeting of the Office of Trade and Investment Ombudsman (OTO) adopted a five-point review of its functions aimed at improving market access for foreign competitors, including inviting foreigners to join its advisory body. The action is in line with the agreement reached in late June at the fifth and final round of the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks aimed at removing barriers to trade and investment in their countries.

The meeting, attended by 16 high-ranking government officials such as deputy cabinet secretary, vice finance minister, and vice foreign minister, decided to allow up to three foreign special members to participate in the OTO advisory council meeting, an eight-member council intended to offer ideas about the operations of the office.

Recommendations adopted also include widening of its activities, a review of the organization rules to clarify investigation and other procedures, and expanded communication between the OTO and foreign chambers of commerce and industry in Japan. The OTO will also cooperate, in fulfillment of the SII agreement, with the import board, an import promotion body established within the trade conference, an interagency Committee chaired by the prime minister.

The OTO was established in 1982 to handle complaints from both Japanese and foreign groups or individuals concerning market access here, including Japan's import procedures. It has settled 393 complaints so far.

Budget Bids Seen Topping 70 Trillion Yen

OW1308144590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—Government ministries and agencies are expected to request fiscal 1991 budget allocations totaling some 70.7 trillion yen, topping the 70 trillion yen mark for the first time, Finance Ministry sources said Monday.

Such requests will be submitted by the end of August, marking a second step by the government toward preparing the budget for the next fiscal year which begins in April 1991 following its adoption last month of a 4.4 percent ceiling on year-on-year growth in general-operating expenditures. The ministry sources cited as a prime factor behind the massive funding requests increased debt-servicing costs as a result of surging interest rates at home.

Spending on debt-servicing would increase by 12 percent to roughly 16 trillion yen, growing at a faster pace than any other spending category in the 1991 budget, or general-account outlays, the sources said.

The general-account budget, designed to finance general government operations, debt-servicing and grants to local governments, is a major part of total government expenditures that encompass many special accounts and the fiscal investment and loan program, known as "the second budget."

Based on such funding requests, the Finance Ministry will compile a draft budget by December, touching off the process of haggling over unallocated funds between the Finance Ministry and other ministries.

Population Growth Rate 'Lowest on Record'

OW1408054490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Japan's population growth rate was the lowest on record in the year ending last March, the Home Affairs Ministry said in a report released Tuesday. The report, based on a survey of residential registries, said the population increased from the previous year by 409,639 or 0.33 percent —the lowest rate of increase since the survey began in 1968—to 122.74 million.

The survey also revealed that the average number of people per household fell to 2.98, dipping below three for the first time. The number of households, however, grew by 1.47 percent to 41.15 million. Senior politicians have expressed concern about the declining birthrate, which reached a record low of 1.57 births per woman in 1989, and have urged the government to consider measures to encourage women to have more children.

Tokyo's population fell by 15,281—the biggest loss among 21 prefectures that registered decreases—to 11,639,293.

Saitama Prefecture, benefiting from the so-called "donut" phenomenon of people moving further away from city centers due to soaring land prices, topped the list of 26 growing prefectures for a third straight year with an increase of 100,941 people. Shiga Prefecture had the highest growth in percentage terms with 0.94 percent.

Kanagawa, Chiba, Aichi, Hyogo, and Ibaraki Prefectures—neighboring the three major cities of Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya—also got bigger.

Population growth in the Nagoya area, including Aichi and Mie Prefectures, slowed from 0.61 percent in the previous year to 0.58 percent, while in the Osaka area, only Hyogo Prefecture showed any growth, with a rise of 0.15 percent.

The survey also showed that women continue to outnumber men in Japan, by 62.36 million to 60.38 million. Following Tokyo, Osaka ranked second in terms of population at 8,557,512, Kanagawa third at 7,847,465, Aichi fourth at 6,576,699, and Saitama fifth at 6,294,960.

Diet Representation Disparity Said To Widen

OW1408055590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—The continued shift of the population in Japan over the past year has widened the disparity of representation in both houses of the Diet, according to the latest census released Tuesday by the Home Affairs Ministry.

The census, based on figures compiled from residential registries as of March 31, shows that it takes 3.26 times as many votes in the least-represented constituency to elect a member to the House of Representatives than the most heavily represented. The gap was 3.18 times in the previous year. The discrepancy of representation in the House of Councillors, the upper chamber, also widened from 6.19 times to 6.26 times.

These figures are well above the limits set by court rulings as well as government guidelines. In a 1983 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that a discrepancy of 3.94 times—which prevailed at the time of the 1980 election—was unconstitutional.

The government pared down the maximum discrepancy to 2.99 times in 1986 through a makeshift shuffling of lower house seats, but the population shift again pushed the gap beyond the three-to-one mark in the following year. The government has made no adjustment to the upper house gap.

As in the 1989 census, the 1990 Home Affairs Ministry report shows that the No. 8 constituency in Tokyo, an electoral district with three lower house seats, remains the most heavily represented electoral district in Japan, with one lower house member for 140,128 eligible voters.

The least-represented electoral district is the No. 4 constituency in Kanagawa Prefecture, where there is one lower house member for 456,386 eligible voters. This means the value of votes in the No. 4 Kanagawa constituency is 3.26 times greater than the No. 8 Tokyo constituency.

According to the latest census, there are three constituencies of 130 that have a vote discrepancy rate three times above the Tokyo No. 8 district. Apart from Kanagawa No. 4, the other two are Chiba No. 4, with 3.24 times the discrepancy rate of the Tokyo No. 8 district and Saitama No. 5, with a rate of 3.03 times.

These three constituencies lie on the outskirts of Tokyo, where population has been growing faster than the city center as a result of sharp rises in land prices in Tokyo.

The population shifts from city centers to the suburbs in other major cities also has widened the gap of parliamentary representation elsewhere in the country.

The 1990 census shows there are 32 electoral districts where the number of votes required to elect a lower house member is more than two times above the Tokyo No. 8 figure. There were 30 under the 1989 census.

The growing gap in Diet representation is expected to add impetus to current moves to reform the electoral system, which has remained virtually unchanged since the end of World War II. But opinions are divided on how to narrow the representation gap, as politicians are eager to protect the voter network they have built up in their constituencies.

Juvenile Crime 'Down' First Six Months of Year

OW1308062890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—The number of youths involved in criminal acts is down in the first half of this year, but bicycle thefts surged, according to a report on criminal acts by youths released by the National Police Agency on Monday. The report said 71,937 youths aged between 14 and 19 were detained by police for alleged criminal offenses in the January-June period.

The total number decreased 0.5 percent from the same period last year, but bicycle thefts and other cases of petty crime rose to account for 70 percent of the total, it said. Crimes of brutality involving unemployed youths and the proportion of crimes involving young females was also high, the report said.

The number of cases of theft, light violence, and atrocities dropped from last year's first half. But the unauthorized use of other people's bicycles increased 36.3 percent to 9,536 and bicycle theft rose 23.3 percent to 6,359.

Female offenders numbered 16,454, only 0.4 percent down from last year's record 23.3 percent of all juvenile criminal offenders, the report said. Acts of brutality committed by unemployed youths accounted for 30.3 percent of total youth atrocities, it said.

Mongolia

Unemployed Association Holds First Conference

OW1108094890 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1747 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 August (OANA-MONTSAME)—About 200 delegates took part in the first conference of the Mongolian Association of the Unemployed (MAU) held today here in Ulaanbaatar. The MAU has about 15 thousand members.

The reports at the conference were made by the leaders and initiators of the MAU—Y. Batsuh, G. Jablhant, M. Oyunbileg and B. Jargalsayhan. They defined unemployment as relevance of the contradictions between individual and society and as relevance of alienation of human being from society. Touching upon the problems of unemployment (according to the data provided by the MAU there are more than 90 thousand jobless persons in Mongolia, according to the official estimates they account for 27 thousand) the leaders of the MAU noted that the increase of the number of the persons isolated from social relations and feeling themselves as redundant persons can engender political instability in Mongolian society.

The conference discussed and adopted the MAU rules and forwarded a petition to the country's leadership in which the MAU states that it must have its representatives in the Baga Hural—the country's permanent parliament. The MAU which failed to participate succesfully in the past election hopes that the ruling party and the coalition of democratic forces will cede two of their seats in the parliament.

The conference also discussed organizational matters and elected the Presidium of the MAU Executive Committee consisting of 4 persons.

Letter Published on 1950 USSR Union Proposal

OW1108095590 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1732 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, August 9 (OANA-MONTSAME)—Recently the ruling party paper UNEN wrote about the proposal of a group of Mongolian postgraduates and lecturers who raised in 1950 a question of joining of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] to the Soviet Union in the interests of accelerating socialist construction. The letter addressed to the Mongolian leaders of that time H. Choybalsan and Y. Tsedenbal had been kept in the archives and came to light on the pages of UNEN. It is noted that Y. Tsedenbal himself was interested in writing this letter.

Today the newspaper publishes a text of the second letter by the same authors who had grounded their proposal. The letter emphasizes the great significance of wide-scale assistance of the Soviet Union in a victory of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution of the Mongolian people which allowed once backward Mongolia to enter on the road of non-capitalist development and then begin building socialism.

At the same time the authors wrote about great difficulties of transition for such country as Mongolia from feudalism to socialism escaping capitalism.

In their letter the authors stressed various social-economic, cultural, demographic and other factors, which restrained, in their opinion, the country's development and construction of socialist society. The authors quote the Lenin's teaching on the necessity of the assistance by working class of the advanced countries to backward countries for realizing the transition to socialism by passing capitalism. The authors see an example of such a transition in the experience of the Soviet central Asian republics, considering that the joining to the Soviet Union was to be the most correct way of successful solution of all problems and difficulties.

It is mentioned in the letter that they did not ignore national dignity, did not yield to difficulties, did not lose belief in perspectives of the development of the country but proceeded from the interests of the acceleration of its socialist development.

The letter was published in the newspaper UNEN under its traditional headline called "Opening the Pages of History."

North Korea

ROK's 'Obstructions' Fuel Conflict Over Rally

Priests' Group Awaits South

SK1408112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 14 (KCNA)—Two delegates of the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association appeared at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 11 this morning to have a working-level contact concerning a visit to the North of delegates of the national Roman Catholic priests' group for the realisation of justice of South Korea. But the contact has not yet been made.

The delegates are still waiting for delegates of the priests' group, saying they are afraid those delegates could not come owing to the obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

'Mass Rally' Held at Stadium

SK1408114290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—More than 150,000 citizens in Pyongyang, the capital city, held a grand mass rally at Kim Il-song Stadium this afternoon and enthusiastically welcomed reunification envoys of the 70 million fellow countrymen.

When the delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters, the delegation of Koreans in North America, the delegation of Koreans in Europe, the delegation of the promotion headquarters in Japan, the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union, the delegation of the Koreans in China, the delegation of Koreans in Japan and the North side's delegation entered into the stadium, the crowds rushed out and warmly hugged the reunification envoys and carried them on their shoulders. Loud shouts "National reunification!" and "Korea is one!" burst forth uninterruptedly. They had solemnly proclaimed the opening ceremony of the pannational rally [PNR] and the starting ceremony of Mt. Paektu-Mt. Halla grand march for the promotion of national reunification atop Mt. Paektu Monday with a firm determination to terminate the national division and open the door of reunification and were hastening their grand march southward.

Present at the mass rally were Vice-President Pak Song-chol and officials concerned.

Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol who is concurrently vice-chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the PNR made a welcome address.

Speaking next were delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters Hwang Sok-yong, head of the delegation of Koreans in Europe Chong Kyu-myong, deputy head of the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union Kim Song, and head of the delegation of Koreans in Japan So Man-sul.

At the end of the mass rally, the delegates formed columns and marched through the main streets of the capital.

Joint Statement Decries South

SK1408134590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1015 GMT 14 Aug 90

["Full text" of a joint statement by the delegates to the working-level contacts from the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally, the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee, the Korean Students Committee, and the Korean Roman Catholics Association Central Committee; issued on 14 August—read by announcer]

[Text] The delegates to the working-level contacts from the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally, the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee, the Korean Students Committee, and the Korean Roman Catholics Association Central Committee came to Panmunjom on 14 August to hold working- level contacts with the delegates of South Korea's National Democratic Alliance [Chonminnyon], the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils, the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, and the Party of the Masses, and waited for seven and a half hours from 0900 to 1630. However, we could not meet the delegates of any of the South Korean organizations. In connection with this, we release the following joint statement.

As has already been reported, on 12 August, the minister of the South Korean National Unification Board announced that visits to the North by the four organizations, including Chonminnyon and the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, would be allowed and proposed to our side a contact of liaison officials to hand over a list of visitors to our side. In connection with this, the spokesmen for the North side's preparatory committee for the pannational rally, the Korean Social Democratic

Party Central Committee, the Korean Students Committee, and the Korean Roman Catholics Association Central Committee respectively released statements. In their statements, they said that they thought it fortunate that the South Korean authorities, though belatedly, expressed a willingness to allow a limited number of people to visit the North and proposed to the South Korean side direct working-level contacts between people concerned, not a contact of authorities, which is not an appropriate form of contact. But the South Korean authorities said that it is the government's policy not to allow direct contacts between civilian organizations, rejected our just proposal, and are kicking up foolish maneuvers to escape responsibility for the fact that civilian-level exchanges could not be realized. This is an act that again clearly shows the South Korean authorities' anachronistic antidialogue, antireunification stand of monopolizing all forms of dialogue and of blocking contact between independent civilian organizations at all costs.

We, the working-level delegates who came to Panmunjom to discuss the issue of visits to the North by the four civilian South Korean organizations, believe that the South Korean authorities' so-called permission or delivery of lists is a clumsy drama to conceal their closed-door policy and a trick to escape from the political crisis they are facing, and sternly denounce this in the name of the entire nation.

Compatriots from all walks of life in the North and South and overseas consider the 1990's as the decade of the reunification of the fatherland and demand more urgently than ever that tension and confrontation between the North and South be removed, that national reconciliation and unity be promoted, and that the strength of the entire nation be united into the cause of reunifying the country. The scale of dialogue for reunification must be expanded, and independent contacts and dialogue among various parties, factions, and personages from all walks of life must be positively promoted to realize this demand and desire of the nation.

But regrettably, the South Korean authorities have not been able to free themselves from outdated confrontational ideas, are trying to monopolize all forms of dialogue, and are still unjustly interfering in independent contacts and visits among various parties, factions, and personages from all walks of life. This is clearly shown by the fact that, even though the South Korean authorities said that they would allow the four organizations to visit the North, they directly interfered and proposed the so-called contacts of liaison officials under the excuse of handing over lists of visitors.

As is clear to anyone, the authorities have no justifiable reason to interfere in meetings between civilians under the excuse of exchanging lists of names. If only people concerned sit face to face instead of the South Korean authorities, who carry lists and inappropriately interfere, they will be able to understand each other more easily and to carry out their tasks better. If the authorities have anything to do with civilian organizations' contacts and visits with each other, it would be to guarantee conditions and personal safety to ensure that civilian organizations will meet. Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities rejected visits to the North by Chonminnyon and other civilian organizations under inappropriate excuses. This clearly shows that the grand national exchange and mutual visits which they are talking about are all false and deceptive.

People are only disillusioned with those who do not allow meetings even in Panmunjom even though they said that they would allow visits to the North and who do not allow contacts of two or three people even though they are babbling about the grand national exchange.

It is the unanimous desire of the entire nation and an urgent, unstoppable demand for people from all walks of life to develop wide-ranging civilian dialogue. The South Korean authorities must discard their bad habit of monopolizing dialogue in defiance of the nation's earnest desire for reunification and must not try to use all forms of dialogue for their dirty political purposes. If the South Korean authorities sincerely have an intention to realize visits to the North by South Korean people, first of all, they must not interfere in someone else's business, they must release people whom they unjustly arrested and detained for visiting the North, and they must abolish the National Security Law, a fascist, vicious law. If the South Korean authorities, ignoring our repeated warnings, continuously block civilian dialogue and exchange, they will not be able to escape from our people's greater denunciation and rejection and will be held fully responsible for all the consequences that may arise therefrom.

Even though our efforts to realize the visits to the North by the delegates of the four organizations of the South Korean side ended in vain and even though, as a result, contacts and dialogue between the sides could not be realized, we will continuously make positive efforts to realize contacts and dialogue between personages of various parties, factions, and walks of life in the North and South and national reconciliation and unity and to promote peace in the country and to hasten her peaceful reunification.

14 August, Panmunjom

South Blocks Group's Appearance

SK1408164590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1638 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 14 (KCNA)—Delegates of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean Social Democratic Party (KSDP) appeared at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 4 this afternoon to have a working discussion concerning the offer of the People's Party [Party of the Masses] of South Korea for a visit to the North. But delegates of the People' Party did not come out.

The People' Party stated on August 2 that its delegation wanted to pay a visit to the northern half of the country for five days beginning August 13. And Mr. Paek Ki-wan, permanent advisor to the party, expressed his hope for a visit to Pyongyang.

The Central Committee of the KSDP expressed support and welcome to its intention to visit the North, regarding it a patriotic decision out of true feelings for national reunification. And it proposed to have a working- level contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 4 this afternoon to materialise its offer.

Considering it was obviously due to the obstructions of the South Korean authorities that the delegates of the People's party failed to show up though several hours passed, the delegates of the C.C., the KSDP expressed resentment at the anti-dialogue, anti-reunification acts blocking contacts and dialogue between different political parties and groupings of the North and the South.

North Delegates Await South

SK1408222590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1547 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 14 (KCNA)—Three delegates of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally came out to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] in Panmunjom at 14:00 today to discuss the question of the participation in the August 15 pan-national rally by the delegates of the South side including those of "Chonminnyon" [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] and "Chondaehyop" [National Council of University Student Representatives].

The three delegates of the North side appeared in the conference room of the NNSC at the appointed time, but no delegate of the South side's promotion headquarters was in sight.

Noting that delegates of "Chonminnyon" and "Chondaehyop" failed to come out to the designated place and time, though they had announced they would have a working contact at 14:00 on August 14, the working delegates of our side said this was due to the obstructions of the South Korean authorities as the cases were in the past.

The working delegates of the North side's preparatory committee has not left Panmunjom, saying they will wait patiently for the appearance of the delegates of the South side.

Marchers Demand Escort to South

SK1508054890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0245 GMT 15 Aug 90

[News statement by spokesman of the Paektu-Halla marching unit for promotion of national reunification; issued in Panmunjom on 15 August—read by announcer]

[Text] The marching unit, which had held a solemn launching ceremony atop Mt. Paektu, the highest mountain in the fatherland, on 13 August amid great interest of fellow countrymen at home and abroad and the entire world, arrived in Panmunjom, where the historic pannational rally will be held, with hopes for reunification of fellow countrymen in the North, the South and abroad.

After holding the pannational rally in Panmunjom, our marching unit is going to continue its march toward Mt. Halla, passing through Panmunjom at 1400 this afternoon.

Members of our marching unit hope that we can march together with the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the pannational rally, who have been anxiously looking forward to meeting us, starting at Panmunjom at 1600 this afternoon, and that we will be escorted by them.

At the same time, we expect that the South Korean authorities will hand over the memorandum ensuring personal safety of members of our march unit to us in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1400 today.

15 August 1990

Banquet Held for Delegations

SK1508054990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0545 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—The North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally gave a banquet at the People's Palace of Culture Tuesday evening for members of the delegations of compatriots at home and from overseas to the rally.

Invited to the banquet were the heads and members of the delegations of the overseas promotion headquarters, the delegation of Koreans in North America, the delegation of Koreans in Europe, the delegation of the Japan promotion headquarters, the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union, the delegation of Koreans in China and the delegation of Koreans in Japan.

Delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters for the pan-national rally were also invited.

Addressing the banquet, Chairman of the North side's preparatory committee Yun Ki-pok said:

We compatriots have not been able even to sit together, to say nothing of visiting each other.

We can no longer live separated and must bring earlier the day of reunification at any cost.

In order to accelerate reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation, all the compatriots at home and abroad who have one idea and purpose as regards reunification must pool mind and will.

The pan-national rally which is opening at Panmunjom, carrying the will of the 70 million fellow countrymen for reunification will record a brilliant chapter in the history of our people's reunification movement as a joint reunification festivity of the North, South and overseas.

Reunification must come to this land where the tragedy of division lasted for nearly half a century, and the day of reunification must come quickly when the 70 million fellow countrymen will dance with joy in each other's arms.

If the barrier bisecting the country is torn down and the day of reunification comes, all of us living separated will reunite and our motherland will prosper as an independent country with no outside forces, a peaceful country free from the danger of a war.

Vice-President Pak Song-chol and others were present at the banquet.

Marchers Await South at Border

SK1508055090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0525 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] This is news just in from Panmunjom. The members of the great Paektu-Halla march for the promotion of fatherland reunification, who have participated in the pan-national rally, are standing by at Panmunjom at this moment, awaiting the arrival of the memorandum of guarantee for personal security from the South Korean authorities so that they may continue their march to Mt. Halla.

South Authorities 'Flurried'

SK1508090890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0615 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—The South Korean rulers are now at a loss what to do, talking first one thing and then the opposite like those bereft of reason, much upset by the movement for removing the wall of division, realizing free travel and full-scale opening and achieving national reunification which has turned into a powerful nationwide movement embracing people of all strata in the North and the South and abroad around the August 15 pan-national rally.

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN recalls that the South Korean authorities who on August 10 and 11 whisked away those who were coming to Panmunjom for a working-level contact with the North, declaring that they would not allow working- level contacts over exchange and travels and visits to the North of "specific organizations" invited by the North, announced on August 12 that they would "allow" delegates of four organizations to visit the North and then blocked their way, too.

The news analyst says:

The South Korean authorities are now so flurried that they are acting like a headless cock, reversing their own talk almost every day, as the deceptive nature of No Tae-u's "special announcement" about "inter-Korean exchanges of people" and the like has been brought to full light. Obviously, they have lost senses or become delirious. If not so, why are they confused so much?

The South Korean authorities are trying to meddle in and rule the roast over contact and dialogue between non- governmental organizations of the North and the South, still sticking to "unified channel of dialogue." This cannot be construed otherwise than an anti-national, anti- reunification act for fear of the popular masses, the motive force of national reunification.

Those who are fearful of people cannot remain long in power, the news analyst remarks, warning: If the South Korean rulers continue insisting on the "unified channel of dialogue," they would face a deserving punishment as the enemy of dialogue for reunification.

Newspapers Dedicate Editorials

SK1508092190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0630 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorials to the grand pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country being held today at Panmunjom amid the great expectation and attention of the whole nation.

It is, indeed, a note worthy event that the reunification festivity of the nation is under way on the spot of division with broad segments of compatriots at home and from abroad attending on the significant 45th anniversary of the liberation of the country, says NODONG SINMUN.

The current rally will, no doubt, demonstrate at home and abroad great national unity transcending differences in idea, ideal, regions and affiliation and the firm will of the whole nation to build a unified country at any cost in the 1990s and will make a great contribution to turning the cause of national reunification into the cause of the whole nation, the paper stressed and continued. The opening of the pan-national rally is a blow to the splittists at home and abroad who are running wild in the "two Koreas" plot, and a great encouragement to the entire people within and without who aspire after reunification and has opened a new bright prospect for the movement for national reunification to be turned into a national-wide grand march for reunification.

The only way to incorporate the will of the whole nation and settle the question of the country's reunification in a peaceful way is to develop dialogue between the North and the South.

The entire people at home and abroad should reject the anachronistic and self-righteous "unified channel of dialogue" asserted by the South Korean authorities and continue struggling to realise multilateral non-governmental dialogue, wide-range dialogue in which political parties, groupings and persons of all social standings in the North, the South and abroad will take part.

All the compatriots at home and abroad should decisively smash the reactionary offensive of the anti-reunification forces against the patriotic forces for reunification and should never pardon the criminal attempt to "legalize" internationally the division of the country with the "northern policy" and "entry into the United Nations".

With the successful convocation of the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country, our nation has come to take a big step forward toward national reconciliation, unity and reunification, and is replete with conviction and confidence that national reunification will be realized before long.

MINJU CHOSON expresses sincere wish that the participants in the rally will unite and unite from the stand of placing the interests of the nation above everything and subordinating it to the cause of national reunification, transcending differences in idea, ideal, political views and religious beliefs, and thus bring a good result in the work of the rally.

Reunification Resolution Adopted

SK1508095990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0648 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—A resolution was adopted at the pan-national rally for the peace and reunification of the country which was held in Panmunjom today with the attendance of delegates of Korean people of all strata from the North, the South and overseas.

The resolution calls upon the compatriots in the North and the South and overseas to make strenuous efforts to create a peaceful atmosphere for the reunification of the country, realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South of Korea, reunify the country through confederation, take an active part in dialogue for reunification and expand and strengthen a joint solidarity struggle for self-determined reunification and the unity of the pro-reunification, patriotic forces.

The resolution says:

We oppose false peace aimed at using peace on the Korean peninsula as am expebient for the "coexistence of the North and the South and freezing the state of the division, and support peace for reunification, reunification-oriented peace.

We will continuously and dynamically wage a nation wide anti-U.S., anti-war, anti-nuclear, peace movement to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

We will reject the arms race which is being stepped up under the cloak of "military equilibrium" and continue to lift up voices of justice calling for disarmament.

We will vigorously fight to have the concrete wall, the symbol of division and confrontation and a hurdle to free travel, dismantled and the "National Security Law" and all other anti-national, anti-reunification legal mechanisms scrapped.

We will reject such way of reunification as one conquering the other or being conquered by the other, which may bring confrontation and conflict between the North and the South, oppose the "northern policy" and "separate entry into the United Nations" for legalising "two Koreas", and advance toward reunification through confederation.

We will reject the "unified channel of dialogue" and make every possible effort to realise wide-range dialogue involving all parties, groupings and people of all strata in the North, South and overseas and bilateral or multilateral non-governmental dialogues between political parties, organisations and social standings.

We will take an active part in the consultative conference for reunification between delegates of the authorities, political parties and organisations in the North and the South to jointly find a way of national reunification and further expand and develop the pan- national rally.

We will take a joint step in the reunification movement, solidarising with and supporting each other in the North, the South and overseas.

At the same time, we will further strengthen solidarity with the peace loving people of the world who support our reunification movement.

We will devote ourselves to firmly uniting all the Koreans who truly aspire after the reunification in the "pan-national alliance for national reunification", whether they live in the North, the South or overseas, regardless of ideology and idea.

It is the unshakable will of the fellow countrymen and solemn request of the national history to reunify the country in the 1990s, the resolution stresses.

Letters Issued to Authorities

SK1508101290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0704 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The participants in the pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country, which was held here today, in a letter to the authorities in charge of national administration in the North and the South urged them to discharge their duties for the country and the nation in keeping with the efforts of the entire fellow countrymen for reunification.

The matter which the authorities of both sides must settle first of all for the reunification of the country, the letter says, is to adopt a nonaggression declaration, drastically reduce the armed forces of both sides and take decisive measures for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons and foreign troops from South Korea in order to ease the tension and preserve peace between the North and the South.

The letter goes on:

In promoting the reunification of the country, it is important at present for the authorities of both sides to refrain from anything which may legitimise "two Koreas." Any act intended to have the division of the country legalized internationally through "simultaneous entry" or "unilateral entry" into the United Nations can by no means be justified.

The authorities of both sides must realise at an early date free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South in order to achieve national reconciliation and unity and promote the reunification of the country. They must not hesitate to remove the concrete wall in the area south of the military demarcation line and the wire entanglements in the area of the North side and scrap the "National Security Law" of South Korea.

The authorities of both sides must not block people of all social strata from participating in the debate and movement for reunification to settle the question of national reunification in the interest of the nation, must not try to make dialogue a monopoly of the authorities but must open the door of dialogue wide so that all Koreans in the North and the South and overseas can have a free debate and dialogue for reunification.

They must not use the dialogue for political purposes of extending the tenure of office and misleading public opinion but must take a sincere attitude of making concessions and compromises with each other by giving priority to the national interests.

They must turn the confrontation policy into a policy of national harmony and the division-oriented policy into a policy of reunification in conformity with the logic of reunification dialogue and must not pursue a confrontation policy spoiling the atmosphere of dialogue by staging large-scale military maneuvers with outside forces against the dialogue partner.

Letter Sent to U.S. President

SK1508105490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0720 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—We hope that you will ponder over the desires of the Korean people and the anti- American feelings of the entire Korean nation and take positive and constructive measures for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

This was stressed in the letter to the U.S. President sent by the participants in the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country which was held here today.

The letter said:

As long as the United States keeps Korea divided and maintains its military presence in South Korea, peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be preserved nor can the reunification of the North and the South be expected.

Taking into consideration the desire of the entire Korean people for reunification and the United States' concern over the Korean question, we resolved reunify the country through a confederation of the North and the South, neither side conquering nor being conquered, and build a neutral confederal state without leaning to the East or the West and a peaceful reunified state without threat of invasion from the South or the North. This road chosen by us is not only good for our nation but also advantageous for the United States.

This being the situation, it is high time that the United States changed its old policy of the cold war period on the Korean peninsula, too, in conformity with the trend toward detente.

The United States must, first of all, withdraw nuclear weapons and its troops from South Korea in order to ease the tension and preserve peace on the Korean peninsula.

If it is impossible to totally withdraw the U.S. troops from South Korea at one time, they may be phased out in a few years.

at the same time, the United States must stop the annual large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, create a favorable atmosphere for North-South dialogue and take measures for easing the tension on the Korean peninsula.

In order to preserve a complete and durable peace on the Korean peninsula, the unstable state of ceasefire must be turned into a state of peace and, to this end, the United States must come out to the DPRK-USA talks or the tripartite talks for the conclusion of a peace agreement.

The United States must not instigate the South Korean authorities to the division of the nation but do things genuinely good for reunification.

We sincerely hope that the bad relations between the United States and the DPRK will be liquidated and a new phase opened in the relations between the DPRK and the USA.

Yun Delivers Keynote Address

SK1508101990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country, made a keynote report at the rally held here today.

He said:

The North and the South being closed to each other, we have been unable to meet or discuss reunification with each other. Today, however, we are sitting knee to knee and exchaning opinions on peace and reunification of the country. This is a first precious victory won jointly by our patriotic forces in the arduous struggle for national reunification.

Yun Ki-pok quoted the respected leader President Kim Il-song as saying:

"The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity agreed upon and made public at home and abroad jointly by the North and the South are a great reunification programme which clearly shows the way to reunify the country by incorporating the resourcefulness and will of the whole nation."

Yun Ki-pok further said:

No matter how the situation of our country may change, the reunification question should be solved without fail on the basis of the three principles of national reunification.

It is the most reasonable way of solving the national reunification question on the basis of the three principles that the North and the South establish a confederal state with the ideologies and systems of both sides left alone.

We have already put forward the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo as the concrete form of the programme for reunifying the country through confederation.

The proposal is a reasonable and realistic one that would make it possible to achieve national reunification peacefully in the shortest time without one side conquering the other or being conquered, under condition in which different ideologies and systems exist in the North and the South.

What is most urgent in promoting national reunification is to settle the problem of peace on the Korean peninsula, he said, and continued:

As we have always contended, peace on the Korean peninsula should be reunification-oriented one. And it should be quaranteed by the withdrawal of foreign troops and disarmament between the North and the South and achieved through negotiation between the parties concerned.

The U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea is the main factor that heightens tension on the Korean peninsula and creates the danger of war and the biggest obstacle to the cause of the reunification of our nation.

The United States must renounce the wrong policy of barring the reunification of our nation, while occupying South Korea for 45 years, and withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea as early as possible.

Saying what is also important in accelerating national reunification is to realize free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South, he called for removing without delay all the political and physical, artificial obstacles lying between the North and the South including the concrete wall of the South side, a symbol of national division.

He said the unwarrantable penalties on the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan, advisor to the coalition for national democratic movement [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] (Chonminnyon), woman student Yim Su- kyong, the delegate of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), and Father Mun Kyu-hyon who had visited the northern half of the country with the single desire for reunification and the intentional, persistent moves to obstruct the preparations for the pan-national rally clearly showed the negative stance of the South Korean authorities toward reunification, travel and exchange.

In order to pave the way for national reunification, it is necessary for all the patriotic forces in the North, South and abroad which aspire after the reunification of the country to unite, he said, and stressed:

We will readily unite with anybody who aspires after reunification and is faithful to the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—although he may differ from us in ideology and idea and in political claims and class position and will join hands with anybody who wants to advance together with us along the road of patriotism today, not asking their past doings.

Noting that if the whole nation is to achieve great national unity under the banner of reunification it is urgent to form a unified body uniting all the political parties, organizations and people of broad strata in the North and the South and abroad who have patriotic intentions for reunification, he said the birth of such a joint organization will bring about a new turn in strengthening the internal forces of the nation for reunification of the country and expanding the reunification movement throughout the country.

He stressed that all the Koreans in the North and South and abroad should fight in close unity under the banner of national reunification and thus make the 1990s a decade of national reunification which will shine in the history of our nation, a decade of great changes for the bright future of a reunified country.

Letter Sent to UN Head

SK1508102690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0712 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—The participants of the pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country held in Panmunjom today adopted a letter to the United Nations secretary-general.

If the United Nations is to help solve the Korean question peacefully and impartially, it must not be used for the purpose of delaying the reunification of Korea, the letter says, and continues:

If the UN makes effective efforts to force the U.S. troops out of South Korea and stop the scheme of the South Korean authorities for "unilateral UN membership" to legalise "two Koreas" by using its forum, it will, no doubt, greatly contribute to the cause of peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification and enhance its dignity and authority.

We cannot but note with apprehension that the South Korean authorities are now making haste with "unilateral entry into the UN" in an attempt to legalise the division of Korea on the international arena and the United States is bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain, strengthening its military presence in South Korea.

The United Nations which has long been involved in the Korean affairs is obliged to help relieve the Korean people of their sufferings, the letter says, and goes on:

First of all, we urge the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

To withdraw the U.S. troops nearing the "UN forces" helmet is natural either in the sense of liquidating the shameful acts the UN did in the past with regard to the Korean question or in view of the UN Charter on the sovereignty and security of each country.

From this point of view, we consider that the UN should dissolve the "United Nations Command" in South Korea and promptly take an appropriate measure whereby to implement the resolution of the 30th session of the UN General Assembly on withdrawing all the foreign troops under the UN flag from South Korea.

In order to help solve the Korean question peacefully and impartially, the UN must not allow the attempts of the South Korean authorities for "unilateral entry into the UN". If the North and the South of Korea are to join the UN before the country is reunification, they must not hold two seats but enter it jointly as one member in favor of the cause of the country's reunification.

If it permits the South Korean authorities to "enter separately into the UN", it will commit another mistake against the will of the Korean people.

The letter expresses the expectation that the UN secretary-general will exercise his power so that the UN can make a positive contribution to the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

Overseas Side Delegate Speaks

SK1508103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Panmunjom August 15 (KCNA)—Head of the delegation of the promotion headquarters in Japan Kwak Tong-ui made a keynote report on behalf of the overseas side at the pan- national rally for peace and reunification of the country held here today.

At a time when the national democratic forces in the southern half of the country are undergoing great difficulties in their struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, we have voluntarily undertaken the role of the overseas movement forces representing their will and activities and the role of a bridge bringing the compatriots in the North and the South closer to each other and linking the reunification movements of the two sides, he said, and continued: We have played this role also in successfully opening the pan-national rally in spite of the obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

To reunify the country in the '90s is the supreme task that our nation should fulfil without fail, he said.

Underscoring the way of pushing ahead with the reunification movement, the reporter said the main point in this is to be guided by the three principles of national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—and carry them into practice.

The most urgent task today in view of these principles is to realise disarmament between the North and the South and create a peaceful climate.

He further said:

Here in Panmunjom I painfully feel a gruesome, stifling air. Why the fellow countrymen should point guns at each other and why the U.S. troops should thrust themselves into this?

The North and the South must switch over to the relations of mutual trust from military confrontation and the U.S. forces must sign a peace agreement in place of the Armistice Agreement here in Panmunjom and go back home.

We must launch a powerful anti-nuke movement in the North and the South and overseas to get the U.S. nuclear weapons taken away.

Stressing that free travel and exchange should be promoted, the wall of division must be pulled down and the North and the South be opened to each other, he stressed: What is important here is to immediately scrap the "National Security Law" which blocks free travel and exchange between the North and the South.

It is important to promote North-South dialogue to new dimensions, he said, and added: Civilian-level dialogues should be briskly conducted along with dialogue between authorities.

He continued:

the splittist forces at home and abroad at present are trying to keep our country divided into two permanently through "simultaneous or unilateral entry into the United Nations" under the present condition of division.

If such move is to be checked the entire fellow countrymen must put pressure on the splittist forces with united strength.

However, it is difficult to achieve great national unity of Koreans in the North and the South and abroad with the intention and strength of one side and one region. Therefore there must be an axis to unite the 70 million fellow countrymen and this axis is an organisation.

From this point of view, I solemnly propose to this historical rally to form a "pan-national alliance for reunification."

The reporter called upon Koreans at home and abroad to firmly unite and march forward dynamically towards the reunification in the '90s.

Anniversary of Liberation From Japan Marked

President Greets Gorbachev

SK1408162090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1608 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the country.

The message reads:

On the occasion of the significant 45th anniversary of our national liberation, I, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean people and myself, extend warm greetings to you and, through you, to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government and people.

Having defeated the Japanese imperialists and liberated the country together with the Soviet Army, the Korean people under the leadership of our party brought about a historical change on the road to socialism, converted their country into an independent socialist country and are now more vigorously advancing to accelerate the complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean-Soviet friendly relations entered a new stage of development with the August 15 national liberation as an occasion and have steadily expanded and developed through the common struggle for peace and socialism.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two peoples, which have long traditions, will continuously consolidate and develop, and wholeheartedly wish you and the Soviet people greater success in the work for stepping up socialist construction, achieving the prosperity of the country and safeguarding world peace.

Gorbachev Greets Kim Il-song

SK1408162590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1613 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A message of greetings came to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Korea.

The message dated August 14 says:

I extend wholehearted congratulations to you and to all the working people of the DPRK on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Korea from the Japanese colonial rule.

That the Soviet Army crushed the Kwantung army of the Japanese occupiers helped Korea achieve freedom and independence. Since then the relations between the Soviet and the Korean people have traversed a long, didactic course, and the traditions of friendly ties, joint action and cooperation which are conducive to peace and security on the Korean peninsula and to the improvement of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region have been established between the USSR and the DPRK.

I wish the working masses of people's Korea success in socialist construction and in the cause of peaceful national reunification.

Meeting Held in Pyongyang

SK1408161590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1550 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang meeting marking the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the country was held this afternoon at the People's Palace of Culture.

Attending the meeting were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; personages concerned, working people in the city and servicemen of the Korean People's Army.

Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich, his embassy officials, Soviet delegations and guests were present there.

Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, made a speech.

Noting that the Korean people have put an end to the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism and successfully achieved the cause of the country's liberation 45 years ago, he said that the liberation of the country was a great victory won by the Korean communists and people through their protracted heroic struggle.

Korean communists and members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army bravely fought against the villainous Japanese imperialist aggressors, overcoming all sorts of mani-fold trials and difficulties in the indomitable fighting spirit in the arduous days of the armed struggle under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, he said, and stressed:

The noble spirit of class solidarity based on proletarian internationalism was highly displayed between the peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union in the course on the common struggle against Japanese imperialism.

Officers and men of the Soviet Army, together with the members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, performed great exploits in the battle to annihilate the Japanese imperialists and dedicated their precious lives. The Korean people will always remember feats of the Soviet Army which helped the liberation of the country with at the cost of blood.

45 years covered by the Korean people were years of struggle during which they have creditably defended the dignity and sovereignty of the country from the aggression of the imperialists and all sorts of the reactionary forces, and years of great creation and changes during which they have built a peculiar socialist system of our style in the land of the homeland, breaking through manifold difficulties and trials, Kang Hui-won stressed.

Touching upon the country's reunification question, he said that the government of the DPRK put forward a large number of reasonable proposals to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and bring about a favourable phase for peaceful reunification and is making all sincere efforts for their realisation.

The United States set it as its main policy toward Korea to create "two Koreas" and has aggravated the situation. The South Korean authorities are persistently resorting to confrontation and divisive policy, while talking about "inter-Korean exchanges", "dialogue" and "negotiation", he said, and continued:

The South Korean authorities are now peddling abroad their plan for the "establishment of diplomatic relations", begging for it, at a time when an agreement was reached on North-South High-Level Talks and its opening is at hand. This clearly shows that their real intention is not reunification but a permanent division. Korea's reunification question is an internal affair of the Korean nation and no one should be allowed to interfere in it and one should refrain from doing anything contrary to reunification.

The United States should renounce the "two Koreas" policy going against the trend of the times and respond to our negotiation proposal for disarmament and detente at once.

The South Korean authorities should stop their moves to freeze the division, clinging to coattails of outside forces, while pursuing the "northern policy" according to the U.S. strategy toward Korea and come out to negotiations with us from a sincere stand for reunification.

Referring to the Korean-Soviet friendly relations, the reporter said that the Korean people hope that the excellent Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation will continue to develop favourably in the interests of the two peoples and in keeping with the realisation of the cause of peace and socialism.

Gennadiy Bartoshevich spoke next.

He said that the liberation of Korea was the most shining page in the annals of the traditional Soviet-Korean friendly relations.

In the past 45 years, the Democratic People' Republic of Korea has been turned into a modern state in Asia, an authoritative state respected by world community, making a weighty contribution to the struggle for peace and international security, by the devoted efforts of the working class, cooperative farmers and people's intellectuals under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, he stressed.

He said that the two peoples have actively helped each other, maintaining close neighbour relations in the whole course of 45 years after the liberation of Korea.

In the recent 30 years the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance has become a solid foundation of relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the ambassador said, and went on:

Our two states have striven and are striving for the removal of the threat of nuclear holocaust and the dismantlement of the massively stockpiled lethal weapons in order to ensure security in Asia in accordance with commitments under the treaty.

A series of initiatives recently made by the leadership of the DPRK to ease military confrontation on the Korean peninsula and create conditions for peace and reunification of Korea evoked support and approval among Soviet public circles.

Noting that it is important to further develop the overall Soviet-Korean relations at present, the ambassador said that it accords with deepening mutual interest, friendship and mutual understanding between our peoples to increase the efficiency of multilateral relations between the two countries and seek their potential possibility more adequately.

Newspaper Comments on Occasion

SK1508000190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0009 GMT 14 Aug 90

[NODONG SINMUN 14 August editorial: "Let Us Struggle With Tenacity on a Single-Track Road of Chuche to Achieve National Prosperity and Independent Reunification"]

[Text] Our people are now meaningfully marking the 45th anniversary of national liberation. Marking the festive occasion of the 15 August, the entire population are offering the highest honor and gratitude to the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il- song who has led our fatherland on a single-track road of uninterrupted prosperity after achieving the historic cause of national liberation and are now full of a firm resolve to achieve the independent reunification of the country and to further glorify Korea under the guidance of the party.

Nothing is more meaningful than to greet the 45th anniversary of national liberation at a time when a pannational rally is to be held amid great interest and expectation of all the Korean people and the progressive people of the world and when the ardent desire for national reunification is growing stronger than ever.

For our people who are marking the 45th anniversary of national liberation, the past 45 years was a period of victory and glory during which they have achieved prosperity of the socialist fatherland under the banner of the chuche idea, as well as a period of struggle during which they have tenaciously struggled to bring an end to national division and achieve the independent reunification of the country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Over the past 45 odd years since national liberation, our people have won great success in building a new society by vigorously carrying out the projects of reshaping society, nature, and men while overcoming all manner of difficulties and ordeals.

In our national history of 5,000 years, 15 August 1945 is adorned as a holiday on which the accursed Japanese imperialist colonial rule was terminated and our people's cause of national liberation was realized.

National liberation was a result of victory attained in the anti- Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Driven by long-term intent and desire to recover the lost country, to rescue the fellow countrymen who were struggling, and to build a wealthy, powerful state of independence in the land of the fatherland, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song embarked upon the road of the anti-Japanese revolution.

The anti-Japanese revolution against the most tyrannical and powerful Japanese imperialists was an arduous struggle. Layers of indescribable difficulties and ordeals laid in wait on this path. Under the banner of the chuche idea, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to a brilliant victory.

In the whole course of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song firmly established the main force of our revolution, dealt a severe blow to the Japanese imperialist aggressors with his chuche-oriented tactics and strategy, and achieved the historic cause of national liberation. It was in the course of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle that our party's glorious revolutionary traditions were created and firm foundation capable of developing itself into a wealthy and powerful country was laid.

Our socialism is now advancing victoriously without wavering under any circumstances and its superiority is given full play because it primarily has roots in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Feats performed not only by the Korean People's revolutionary Army led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, but also by the Soviet Army contributed to the historic victory which enabled our people to annihilate the Japanese imperialist aggressors and achieve national liberation.

With their blood the Soviet people helped our people achieve the cause of national liberation by sending their Red Army. Our people always remember the feats performed by the Soviet Army in the war of annihilating and wiping out the Japanese imperialists and of liberating Korea.

National liberation was an event of historic proportion that opened an epoch-making turning point in our people's struggle for socialism under the banner of the chuche idea. Over the past 45 years, our party and people have vigorously advanced along the road of socialism indicated by the chuche idea, braving the grave ordeals of history and have won a great victory in the revolution and construction.

The struggle to build socialism in our country under the guidance of our party was a course of strengthening the main force of the revolution and of remolding every area of society according to the demands of the chuche, as well as a course of thoroughly establishing the main force.

Our party has always concentrated effort primarily on strengthening the main force of the revolution and construction, while consistently maintaining an independent and creative stand, and has implemented the lines of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense. With independence in politics, self-reliance in economy, and self-defense in defense firmly realized, our country has been turned into an independent socialist country where chuche is established and which is capable of endlessly developing itself on its own.

In firm unity and cohesion, the leader, the party, and the masses have formed the powerful, independent main force of our revolution and it is being strengthened and developed on the firm basis of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense. Herein lies the source of the might and invincibility of socialism in our country.

Our people have overcome a host of difficulties in the course of a struggle for socialism, and profusely shed blood and perspiration in the process. Our people's efforts and their creative labors have been rewarded. Today, our people have completely become the masters, in control of their own fate, and have laid a firm foundation for socialism that cannot budge even a bit for thousands of thousands of years to come.

The greatness of the chuche idea, the leading ideology of our party, the invincibility of our chuche-oriented people, and the superiority of our country's socialist system which has embodied the chuche idea—this is the proud epitome of our people's struggle for socialism. Added to this are the great pride, honor, and faith in the future of our people who are carrying out the revolution under the guidance of the party and leader.

All the victories and successes adorning the annals of our fatherland over the past 45 years are the noble fruition of the party's and leader's wise leadership, as well as of our people's high degree of loyalty. We have carried out the socialist cause walking along an unfamiliar, untrodden road and in the process we had to overcome mounting difficulties and ordeals.

Basing himself on the chuche idea, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song indicated the correct roads for the construction of a wealthy, independent, and sovereign state at every period and every stage of the developing revolution and has always led the revolution and construction to victory staying among the people.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, with long-term intent to glorify the chuche Korea which was provided by the respected and beloved leader, has changed the look of the fatherland with his tested and refined leadership and has pushed ahead with the grandiose cause of strengthening the might of the country in all aspects. Without the wise guidance of the party and leader, it is impossible to conceive of the fact that an era of great national prosperity has been unfurled and great monumental creations of glorifying the era of the Workers' Party have been erected in great number.

Our fatherland's modern history has taught a valuable truth that only when they uphold a great leader can the people brilliantly explore the fate of the fatherland and people. As in the past, the final victory of our revolution and the uninterrupted prosperity of the fatherland lies in upholding the guidance of the party and leader.

The past 45 years since national liberation was a history of pannational struggle to reconnect the severed national blood vessel and to achieve national reunification. Our people's joy and deep feeling over the liberation did not last very long and our country could not avoid being artificially divided by outside forces in the days that followed national liberation. The division of the country and people following national liberation created a great deal of difficulty for our people involved in a struggle to build a new fatherland and hindered the unified development of the country.

The national desire for building a wealthy, independent, and sovereign state has been realized in only half of the national territory. The 10-point program provided by the National Liberation Association and the 20-point program announced shortly after national liberation have also been realized in only the northern half of the Republic.

Over the past 45 years, our party has consistently made every effort possible to reunify the divided fatherland. In particular, the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity, which were put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, are a great program for reunification which has illuminated the road leading to national reunification by reflecting the resourcefulness and intent of the entire population.

Our party's proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity is the most just and practical proposal for reunification capable of fairly achieving national reunification by independent and peaceful means under circumstances in which different ideologies and systems exist in the North and South, without anyone swallowing anybody else or being swallowed.

In this way, common national programs for reunification have been provided and reunification movement has been transformed into a pannational movement. Reflecting the desire and the pressing demands of the entire population for reunification, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song declared in his New Year's address a proposal for pulling down the wall and for realizing free travel and full- scale opening between the North and South and put forward anew a five- point policy for national reunification again in his policy speech delivered at the first session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly.

Because they are the most just and practical, the proposals put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song have provoked great sympathy from among the progressive people of the world and have become a militant banner that vigorously encourages and propels all the Korean people in the North and South and abroad on a road of reunification.

To bring an end to the tragedy of national division and achieve national reunification is a life-and-death question of our people whose solution cannot be delayed for even a moment, as well as a task of the times raised by the historic stream moving toward independence. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, however, have ignored the just proposals for reunification advanced by our party and the Republic's government, while persistently maneuvering to perpetuate national division by fabricating two Koreas.

While professing that it welcomes free travel and full-scale opening, the South Korean puppet clique is now punishing Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong, and Father Mun Kyu-hyon who visited the North out of a noble desire for reunification after branding them as criminals. Even amid the continuing harsh suppression, the South Korean people are now courageously fighting a sacred struggle for national sovereignty and national reunification under the loftily raised slogan of anti-U.S. struggle for independence, antifascist struggle for democratization, and national reunification.

The just struggle by the South Korean people clearly shows our people's high spirit of independence and their unbreakable resolve to achieve national reunification. Although hindering maneuvers of the splittists within and without continue maliciously, the reunification movement is surging ahead with each passing day on a pannational scale.

It is an inevitable course of history that people divided artificially by outside forces will become reunified as one. By struggling in firm unity as one based on hope and faith, all the compatriots in the North and South and abroad should pull down the concrete wall built in the areas south of the military demarcation line, achieve free travel and full-scale opening between the North and South, resolutely smash the maneuvers of the splittists, and turn the nineties into a historical decade of national reunification.

Today, we are faced with an honorable task to give full play to the superiority of our country's socialism and to achieve an uninterrupted national prosperity by more vigorously accelerating the revolution and construction. Putting a long-term plan into operation for more highly glorifying the chuche socialist fatherland recovered and provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our party is now leading it wisely.

We should occupy the ideological and material fortresses, the basic strategic goals of socialist and communist construction, by vigorously launching the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—upholding the guidance of the party and leader. By realizing the projects of revolutionizing, working- classizing, and intellectualizing society, we should bring up all members of society as communistic men and turn society into a communistic group united with comradely spirit.

At the same time, we should see to it that the already established socialist national economy of self-reliance highly prove its worth by firmly adhering to the lines of making the national economy chuche-oriented, modernized, and science-oriented and by thoroughly implementing them.

The chuche idea is the guiding ideology of our revolution, as well as the ideological banner for the boundless prosperity of our socialist fatherland. Our socialism is man-centered socialism that has embodied the chuche idea and the future of our fatherland and people depends on how to embody the chuche idea in the revolution and construction.

How to strengthen the revolutionary banner is a basic question in the struggle for socialism and for national prosperity. All the party members and working people should strengthen the might of the united body of the leader, the party, and the masses, namely the main force of the revolution in all aspects by cherishing deep in their hearts the wise guidance and exploits of the party and leader that have rescued the fate of the fatherland and people and has basically changed its position and surroundings and upholding the party and leader with all their might.

At the same time, they should think and act according to the dictates of the party and leader's ideas and intent by arming themselves firmly with our party's chuche idea and the anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions. The party members and working people should struggle to the end to win the victory of the socialist cause with a firm faith in the superiority of our country's socialism, without wavering even a bit.

The further socialist construction advances, we should unite more firmly around the party and leader based on the chuche idea and share the same fate with the party to the end in their struggle for national prosperity. In order to vigorously push ahead with the struggle for the independent reunification of the country and for prosperity, it is imperative to strengthen the unity with the international revolutionary forces.

The Korean-Soviet friendship that struck its roots in the course of the bloody anti-Japanese struggle has become more solid and developed since national liberation. The Korean people and the Soviet people have forged firm comradely ties and relations of friendship and cooperation in the protracted joint struggle for the victory of the socialist and communist cause against imperialism.

Traditional Korean-Soviet friendship is firmly guaranteed by the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance signed between the two countries and it is fully being expanded and developed in all areas according to the spirit agreed upon at the summit meetings and talks.

We will do our best in the future to expand and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet people. The Soviet people are now vigorously engaged in a struggle to implement the decisions adopted at the 28th CPSU Congress, to consolidate and develop the CPSU, and to increase the might of the Soviet society.

Our people rejoice the successes attained by the Soviet people as if they were their own and wholeheartedly hope that Soviet might will grow stronger.

On the basis of socialist principle and in the spirit of the comradely cooperation, we will make positive efforts to strengthen unity and solidarity with the socialist countries, strengthen the unity and cohesion of the nonaligned movement, and develop the friendship and cooperative relations with the nonaligned nations and developing countries.

We will establish friendly relations even with the capitalist countries that respect our country's sovereignty and develop economic and cultural exchange with them in the principle of equality and mutual respect.

Without fail, victory and glory will be in store for our people who are struggling with faith in just cause, conviction in the future, and optimism.

All the party members and working people should vigorously advance to achieve an uninterrupted national prosperity, the independent reunification, and to consummate the socialist and communist cause to the end by uniting around the party and leader more firmly.

Soviet Air Force Flying Corps Arrives 14 Aug

SK1408112990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A flying corps of the Soviet Air Force led by Maj. Gen. [Major General] Yuriy Morozov, chief of staff of the flying corps of the anti-air force of the Soviet Union, arrived today for an official goodwill visit to Korea.

When it touched down, the crowd warmly welcomed its members, shouting "Friendship" and "Unity" and waving bouquets of flowers.

The visitors were greeted by Lieut. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Hong Song-yul and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and the Soviet Embassy officials in Pyongyang.

Soviet Pacific Flotilla Arrives at Wonsan Port

SK1408101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—A flotilla of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet with the large anti-submarine "Marshal Shaposhnikov" as its flagship led by Vice-Admiral Anatoliy Oleinik, first deputy commander of the fleet, called at Wonsan Port today.

When the Soviet warships dropped anchor, a gun salute boomed.

When leading members of the flotilla stepped down on the wharf, the crowds warmly welcomed them, shouting "Welcome" and "Friendship" and waving bunches of flowers and miniature flags of the two countries.

They were met at the wharf by Vice Admiral of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Kwon Sang-ho, and other KPA generals and officers and Kim Yo-hyon, secretary of the Kangwon provincial party committee, Yi Chong-il, chairwoman of the Kangwon provincial committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and leading functionaries of the party and power bodies and administration and economic guidance organs in Wonsan City.

Minister-Councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang Boris Morozov and his embassy officials and a delegation of Soviet army journalists headed by Lieutenant General Ivan Panov, editor-in-chief of the newspaper of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, were present there to met them.

A welcome ceremony took place there in honor of the leading members of the flotilla. [passage omitted]

South Korea

More on Developments Surrounding Mideast Crisis

Workers Released in Baghdad

SK1108002390 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Three Korean workers in custody of the Iraqi authorities were released yesterday and handed over to the Korean Embassy in Baghdad,the Foreign Ministry said.

They were Kim Yong-ho, Cho Chun-taek and No Chae-hang, all construction workers of the Hyundai business group. They were detained by the Iraqi military authorities, while on their way to work in Kuwait Aug. 2 and later transferred to Baghdad. Their release was made at around 1 p.m. [1000 GMT] yesterday. They were in good health at the time of their release, according to the dispatch from the Korean Embassy in Iraq.

A ranking Iraqi Foreign Ministry official telephoned Korean Ambassador Choe Pong-num and notified him of the Iraqi government's decision to set free the Koreans. Kim Chong-ki, first secretary at the Korean Embassy, visited the Iraqi authorities to escort the workers. With the release of the three Hyundai workers, there remain no Koreans in custody of the Iraqi authorities.

U.S. Help Sought for Ships

SK1108021990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 11 (YONHAP)—The Transportation Ministry has instructed the Korean maritime attache in Washington to enlist the U.S. naval cooperation for the safe operation of Korean vessels plying in the Persian Gulf.

Officials at the ministry also said Saturday that the ministry asked Korea Air (KAL) to be ready for airlift of some 1,300 Koreans in Iraq and Kuwait if a decision is made on their withdrawal. The ministry is considering dispatching the B-747s if repatriation is possible. Korea is seeking protection from the U.S. Navy for 28 commercial vessels that regularly sail through the Gulf—11 oil tankers and chemical ships and 17 freighters.

"Seven out of every eight Korean vessels sailing in the Gulf have bought war insurance, and the others will buy it shortly just in case," the official said. On Friday, two Korean vessels were in Iraqi and Iranian ports and six vessels, mostly oil tankers, were heading toward the region.

Korean Air will halt flights to Bahrain and Jeddah if there is a sign of the war expanding, he said. The government is also seeking to get a Korean vessel owned by Pan Ocean Shipping Co. to safety if Iraq is blockaded by the U.S. Navy, the official said.

Twenty Escape to Saudi Arabia

SK1508015590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Twenty South Koreans have escaped from Kuwait and are in the South Korean Embassy in Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

They drove across the Saudi border on Monday at around 6 P.M. And stayed overnight at a work camp run by Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. before arriving in Riyadh, according to a report from Consul Yang Pong-yul. The group includes Yi Yong-ku, head of the Korean Air office in Kuwait, his wife and their two children, Yang said. The others are businessmen, a priest, taekwondo instructors and their dependents.

A Korean Air spokesman said they will soon be flown home. Five Hyundai workers from Iraq and a couple from Kuwait crossed into Jordan over the weekend.

No Comments on Mideast Crisis, USSR, DPRK

SK1408010590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Aug 90 pp 5, 12

["Full Text" of interview with ROK President No Tae-u by Choe Chang-sok, managing editor of THE KOREA HERALD, at Chongwadae on 13 Aug]

[Text] Question: What do you think of recent global political developments and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait? And, what changes do you expect in relations among nations in Northeast Asia?

Answer: The Iraqi invasion has shown that the thaw of relations among super-powers may make regional conflicts more likely. Aggression can be justified under no circumstances. The future world should be one that never allows invasion. Northeast Asia has witnessed five major wars in the region over the past 100 years. Forty years ago, we suffered a North Korean invasion, which led to millions of casualties and the devastation of the entire nation.

We live in an area which is still threatened by the prospect of war. The Korean Peninsula is not in a state of peace, but truce. We hope the current Middle East conflict will be settled peacefully at an early date. It should never occur that armed aggression in one region, by being left unchecked, contributes to enhancing the danger of war in other areas.

The United Nations and many nations of the world are taking sanctions against Iraq. Remarkable is the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union are cooperating to resolve the Middle East crisis. This signals a very significant change in the global political atmosphere.

In the Iraqi invasion, we see a stark reality that a nation can be guaranteed peace and security only when it has sufficient self-defense capability.

For the past 40 years, "balance of power" has helped maintain the security structure in Northeast Asia, particularly on the Korean Peninsula where South and North Korea are confronting each other. The situation is still the same. The cold war system which has prevailed in the world since the end of World War II is now crumbling. The world has witnessed changes in relations among superpowers and massive reforms in many socialist countries. It is now entering an era of peace, cooperation and joint prosperity for mankind.

We are determined to play a leading role in changing the structure of cold war confrontation to that of reconciliation and cooperation in Northeast Asia, especially on the Korean Peninsula. This position was well expressed in my June 7 declaration in 1988 and my speech before the United Nations General Assembly in October the same year.

Rapid progress in our northern policy has enabled us to open diplomatic ties with most East European countries. Relations with the Soviet Union have been rapidly improving since my summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco June 4. The two countries recently had official talks in Moscow on normalizing diplomatic relations and expanding economic cooperation.

The international situation around the Korean Peninsula is also moving in a positive direction. But North Korea is still resisting changes and sticking to its extreme isolationist policy. I do not believe that the North can forever disregard the global trend of moving toward reconciliation, openness and cooperation. I am confident that waves of freedom and reform will soon reach this part of the world. We will do our best to maintain stability in Northeast Asia and pursue joint prosperity, while actively contributing to forming a new world order.

Q: The United States, several European countries, Australia and Arab states are joining military sanctions against Iraq. Is there any possibility that we will participate in the military sanctions or offer support?

A: We are not in a position to offer military support for the sanctions. We are facing a more urgent task of firmly establishing peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

Currently we are exerting efforts for dialogue and reconciliation between South and North Korea. Our efforts will bear fruit only when national security is guaranteed and armed aggression can be deterred. The Korean Peninsula is not in permanent peace but in a state of truce, and our national security is still being threatened. Under these circumstances, we cannot afford to join the international military sanctions in the Persian Gulf. The government has expressed its support for the U.N. Security Council's resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq. And we have made clear our position that occupation of a country through armed aggression can never be justified.

Q: North Korea has rejected your July 20 offer for border opening for free mutual visits. Do you have plans to make new proposals to improve inter-Korean relations?

A: The confrontational structure of the cold war era is being eliminated, and should be considered an historic relic. But North Korea is resisting changes and pursuing a policy of confrontation.

My July 20 announcement for grand national exchanges is aimed at correcting the tragic situation and realizing reconciliation and cooperation with the North regardless of differences in ideologies and political systems. As in Germany, we should prepare a momentum for peaceful unification for ourselves by restoring self-esteem and homogeneity of the 70 million Korean people. We will continue efforts to conduct dialogue with the North for the realization of mutual exchanges and cooperation.

What is most important now is to remove mutual distrust and build confidence between South and North Korea. We are ready to discuss any issues with the North, including the arms control question and the matter of transferring the current armistice system to a peace structure.

Regrettably, however, the north has yet to accept our open-minded and progressive position. Pyongyang's response so far is only based on propaganda tactics. North Korea cannot remain isolated forever at this time of massive changes toward reform and openness as witnessed in the entire socialist bloc, including the Soviet Union and China. The cold war ice on the Korean Peninsula has already begun to crack. North Korea will change, if we continue to push for the improvement of inter-Korean relations with patience and sincerity.

Pyongyang has declined to agree to my July 20 offer for exchanges. But it cannot resist national exchanges forever. Should the north positively respond to our position, I will work out more progressive measures to expand exchanges between the two sides. For the realization of inter-Korean exchanges, we will employ all possible channels. We will exert every possible effort through direct dialogue with the North and through cooperation with its allies, including the Soviet Union and China.

Q: North Korea is rejecting our offer for inter-Korean exchanges, while presenting such conditions as the removal of "concrete walls," the abolition of the National Security Act and the release of such jailed dissidents as the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yim Su-kyong. What is your view on that?

A: Such preconditions cannot be justified as reasons for resisting exchanges between brethren in South and North Korea. They are only excuses trumpeted for propaganda.

Have we ever raised internal problems of North Korea whose residents are deprived of their freedom? We have refrained from doing so only to promote the development of inter-Korean relations. What really provides an obstacle to inter-Korean exchanges is the true nature of North Korea where such basic rights as the change of address and domestic travel are restricted, not to mention freedom of the press.

North Korean criminal laws provide for capital punishment for those who criticize the man in power and his son, let alone those who oppose or criticize the so-called socialist revolutionary lines. The North is also lacking in systems to protect the rights of suspects in the course of trials. It remains in secret how many political prisoners there are in North Korea. We are not citing such internal problems of North Korea as preconditions for dialogue or exchanges.

The National Security Act is a defensive law designed to protect our liberal democratic system from subversive activities. Besides, affairs concerning inter-Korean exchanges are governed by recently enacted special laws for the promotion of exchanges and cooperation between South and North Korea. It is absolutely clear that the act provides no obstacle to inter-Korean exchanges.

The North is also talking about concrete walls...it is nonsensical. I want to ask North Koreans to visit here and see the alleged walls themselves. Needless to say, they are antitank barriers. North Korea should stop thinking that their propaganda would produce desired effects. It should be cognizant of the high level of awareness of our people and consider the fact that its activities are being watched by the entire world.

Before anything else, the North should take steps to allow the reunion of families dispersed in South and North Korea. This is a matter of humanitarian principles, transcending politics or ideologies.

Q: North Korea is expected to push strongly the arms control question in the planned inter-Korean prime ministers' meeting. It will also likely reiterate its demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in the South. What do you think about the arms control issue?

A: Progress has been made in worldwide arms reduction efforts in accordance with the East-West thaw and the mood of reconciliation and cooperation.

The arms buildup has continued for 40 years on the Korean Peninsula since the Korean War. The question of arms competition and military confrontation should be resolved to ease tension between South and North Korea and establish peace on the peninsula.

The establishment of mutual political and military confidence between South and North Korea is a prerequisite to the promotion of arms control. On the basis of mutual trust, the two sides should reach an arms reduction agreement, and they should guarantee ways to inspect and verify the implementation of the agreement. In order to realize arms reduction, the two sides must first conclude a nonaggression pact and build up the foundation of mutual confidence through exchanges and cooperation.

U.S. forces came to be stationed here because of the Korean War triggered by the North's invasion of the South. Even after the truce, they continued to stay here as the threat of war continued to exist. It cannot be denied that U.S. forces have contributed greatly to preventing the recurrence of war in this region. In order to resolve the question of U.S. forces stationed here, we should first eliminate factors that have brought them here and justified their continued presence. They can be withdrawn any time when military threats disappear.

Should the North faithfully carry out agreements on arms reduction, we could seek readjustment of U.S. forces here through consultations with the United States so that the question would not block progress in arms control between South and North Korea.

Q: You met separately with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in the United States in early June soon after your visit to Japan in late May. Can you talk about future cooperation with leaders of the three countries on reducing tension and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula?

A: The cold war on the Korean Peninsula, from the nation's territorial division and the Korean War till today, is inseparably related to the four major powers surrounding the peninsula—the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan.

Relations with these four countries are very important in efforts to foster circumstances favorable for peace and unification of the peninsula. The peninsula is a region constantly threatened by the possibility of recurrence of war. Under this situation, promoting cooperative ties with surrounding countries will be of great help in maintaining stability in the region.

Improvement of ties with the Soviet Union will help secure a climate for peace and unification of the peninsula. Such a factor, I think, takes precedence over economic or any other national interests of the two countries.

My meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev signaled that the two countries had already started efforts for the normalization of bilateral relations. Being neighboring countries with vast areas of potential cooperation, Seoul and Moscow will be able to make rapid progress in normalizing ties. Development of cooperative ties between the two countries will help accelerate the process of bringing about changes in North Korea and reduce the threat of war on the peninsula.

We are maintaining more amicable relations with the United States, which is our most important ally, than at any previous time. The United States maintains a firm security commitment to us. It is also closely cooperating with us in our major foreign policies, including northern diplomacy.

I am pleased to note that my visit to Japan in May helped eliminate negative historic legacies and open a new era of genuine partnership between the two neighboring countries. We will continue to push for close cooperative ties with the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan. Cooperative ties with the three countries will greatly contribute to reducing tension and removing the structure of Cold War confrontation in this region.

I hope our relations with China will also improve, though bilateral contacts still remain at nongovernmental levels. It should be noted that bilateral exchanges and two-way trade are steadily on the rise.

Q: When do you expect Seoul and Moscow can normalize their relations? And will you please talk about the prospect of bilateral economic cooperation and the possibility of your visit to Moscow?

A: Our government delegation has returned from talks with Soviet officials held in Moscow early this month. The talks were held at the request of the Soviet side following my San Francisco meeting with Gorbachev.

A Soviet official delegation is to visit Seoul next month for the second round of talks on opening diplomatic ties and promoting economic cooperation. In the first round of talks in Moscow, the two sides agreed in principle to settle at the same time the questions of opening diplomatic ties and expanding economic cooperation. The two countries are complementary in their economic structures. In view of this, they can promote economic cooperation in mutually beneficial ways.

We have the capacity and technology to produce consumer goods needed by the Soviet Union. We also have experience in economic development, which would be of help to the Soviet Union in pushing reform projects. The Soviet Union is well aware of our capacity and needs it. The Soviet Union is endowed with rich natural resources and high- level scientific expertise which would be helpful to our national economy. The complementary factors can be integrated in mutually beneficial ways.

It is true that the Soviet Union is currently experiencing a poor foreign currency situation. But I don't think that the country with its great potential will cause any long-term problems in paying for economic cooperation with us. When the two countries normalize their relations and secure legal and institutional foundations for their bilateral trade, its volume is expected to top $10 billion in 1995. Bilateral economic cooperation in investment, technological cooperation and various other fields are also expected to develop remarkably.

Through the opening of full diplomatic ties and the conclusion of the relevant treaties, the government will try to foster a favorable atmosphere for bilateral trade and investment and assist private businesses in making inroads into the Soviet market.

During the first round of official talks in Moscow, the Soviet Union presented a list of economic cooperation projects it desires. But specific contents and the scale of economic cooperation would be finalized only after the second or third round of talks.

At the San Francisco meeting, Gorbachev and I shared understanding that exchange visits by the heads of state would be conducive to developing bilateral relations. So, I hope that our exchange visits will be realized at an opportune time after the normalization or bilateral ties.

Q: There have been reports that you would visit China on the occasion of the Beijing Asian Games this fall. What do you think of that?

A: The reports are untrue. It is true that as a nation with the experience of hosting the Asian Games and the Olympics, we are offering assistance and hoping for the success of the Beijing Asian Games. But I have no plan to visit China during the Beijing Asian Games.

Q: What steps will you take to restore political stability by year-end as you promised? And, what do you think of the opposition argument that the ruling party is attempting to prolong its rule through a constitutional revision for a parliamentary cabinet system?

A: We are facing the task of realizing democracy, prosperity and national unification in the current decade. From now on, we should build firm foundations for the achievement of the task.

Now is the time for our ruling and opposition politicians to leave their respective positions and exert common efforts to realize this historic task.

Amidst rapid changes worldwide, the political situation around the Korean Peninsula is also changing greatly, as seen in the improvement of ties between Seoul and Moscow.

Relations between South and North Korea are also nearing a very significant turning point. We should not lose an opportunity for unification that might come before the turn of the century. It is quite natural for the ruling party and the opposition to cooperate at this juncture. With my June 29 declaration of democratic reform proposals three years ago as a starting signal, we all have been endeavoring to open an era of genuine democracy. The ruling and opposition parties are partners who jointly carry out democratization.

Our national economy, with its per capita income standing at $5,000, is also confronting a crucial moment. The people are hoping for politics that will make them feel comfortable and help the nation continue its economic growth amidst stability. They are ardently wishing for "creative politics" that will help achieve things beneficial to the people and the nation.

It is regrettable that a minority party blocks the presentation of bills to parliament by using forceful means... And I cannot understand how its lawmakers can tender their resignations and walk out of parliament on the excuse of the majority party's handling of the bills. I hope that opposition lawmakers will not give up their duty in the regular National Assembly session which should deliberate next year's government budget bill and many other bills directly related with the people's lives. The ruling party will do its best to have opposition lawmakers return to parliament. We will conduct dialogue with the opposition with sincerity and make compromises, if need be.

The people's political awareness has become much higher... Politicians can achieve nothing should they continue to turn a blind eye to public opinion and stick to the past practice of extreme confrontation. Judging from the high level of political awareness of our people, I believe that our politics will become different, though it will take some time, and that we will be able to achieve stability. The people want neither one-sided rule by the majority party nor an arbitrary and unreasonable manner on the part of the minority party.

It goes against common sense to argue that the presidential form of government is democratic and a parliamentary cabinet system is undemocratic. The presidential system is used by some of the democratic nations of the world. But the parliament cabinet system has been adopted by a larger number of countries. There is no change in my position, which was stated in the June 29 declaration, that the parliamentary cabinet system is more suitable for the nation for the firm establishment of democracy.

At that time, however, a majority of the people wanted the restoration of direct presidential elections and I acted in accordance with the people's wishes. Both the presidential and the parliamentary cabinet systems have merits and demerits. What to choose should be decided by the wishes of the people. The opposition is alleging that the ruling party is attempting to prolong its rule by introducing a parliamentary cabinet system... But, under any system, I will never remain in power for a single day after my term of office ends. Whether a party becomes a ruling party or not is dependent on the will of the people, that is through elections.

Q: You had a task force formed last May under your office to tackle corruption among civil servants. But such undesirable practices among wealthy people as real estate speculation, extravagance and unprincipled lifestyles have not been totally stopped. What do you have in mind to remove those undesirable elements and set up a sound social atmosphere? Please elaborate on your plan to establish public peace also.

A: I promised the people May 7 that I would accomplish political, economic and social stability by the end of this year by rooting out real estate speculation and maintaining public peace.

To fulfill the promise, sacrificial work attitudes from civil servants, initiative by high-ranking officials and social leaders, are essential. I believe the moral discipline among officialdom has much improved in the past three months since the task force was activated. I will continue to reinforce the activities of the team until I judge it has achieved the expected results. But I would put more emphasis on boosting the morale of the officials who perform their duty faithfully and rewarding them than punishing the violators.

Real estate speculation and extravagant practices have been gradually reduced by the government's strong anti-speculation policies and improved work discipline among government employees.

The government has long exerted efforts to settle public peace. as a result, the number of crimes has noticeably decreased, while the percentage of the criminals caught by the police has increased, though not satisfactorily.

Both police and prosecution are doing their best and the government is making diversified efforts. Around the end of this year, the situation will improve much more so that people will be able to live without fear of their security, I believe.

Q: The new Middle East crisis brought about by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is already causing a big impact on the world economy by spiraling up crude oil prices and creating confusion in international financial markets. It is expected to deal a big blow to the Korean economy too. Would you give your outlook of the nation's economy for the second half of this year in the wake of the Middle East situation, and talk about the government's effort to cope with the crisis?

A: The Mideast situation remains in fog, and thus it is difficult to precisely forecast how it will develop. It is also hard to assess what impact the Middle East situation will bring on the global and Korean economy at this moment. If the situation deteriorates, and the conflict spread out to the whole Mideast region, the fear of a third global oil crisis may arise. Then global crude oil prices will spiral up, and the global economy will enter a deep recession, and the Korean economy will not avoid great difficulty. If the situation is confined to Iraq and Kuwait, and an early solution is found, it will not be too had for our economy, though any rise of crude oil prices is expected to somewhat increase Korea's expenditure on oil imports. Korea imports about 110,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Iraq and Kuwait, which accounts for roughly 12 percent of Korea's total oil imports. Both the government and oil refining industries have build up a significant oil stockfile, and so no major problem with the domestic oil supply is anticipated.

The only concern is about the future development of global oil prices. Judging from this point, chances are high that the oil prices will further go up. High oil prices will bring negative impacts on our international trade balance and domestic prices. Merchandise and construction service exports will be inevitably affected. However the Mideast situation develops, the government will promptly react via its Mideast taskforce team and the government-private joint emergency committee to ensure that the nation will not undergo hardships like those of the two previous oil crises.

The government will seek alternative oil import sources to make up for a disruption of oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait, and carry out comprehensive programs to cope with the Mideast crisis through strict management of domestic oil prices and supply, and strengthening the energy saving campaign. The new Mideast situation should become an opportunity for both government and the people to reflect on recent over-spending and to create a social mood for working hard and saving.

Q: Exports are a mainstay for our economic growth, but they have been sluggish in recent years. The government and companies seem to be less concerned about exports than as before. The Korean businesses' falling competitiveness on the international market slowed exports. The government is required to endeavor to solve such problems as labor disputes, foreign exchange rates and trade frictions. What do you think of it?

A: The recent sluggishness in exports was caused by a decrease of productivity and a rise in wages both resulting from labor unrest, low profitability due to the won's appreciation and the Korean exports' failing competitiveness because of poor performances in technology development.

Japanese and Taiwanese exports have been also sluggish since the beginning of this year. In view of it, our sluggish exports were caused by the world's decreased demand as well. As in the past, exports should play a leading role for our economic growth. However, conditions for exports are deteriorating because of trade frictions, strengthening of protectionism and intensifying of international competition.

In addition, the situation in the Middle East caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is expected to give a hard blow to the world economy, by creating a third oil crisis. Under these circumstances, the government's assistance and companies strategies for exports should not be the same as before. Companies should strengthen their international competitiveness for themselves to increase exports. Labor and management should increase efforts to develop new products and technology, and improve the quality of their products. Reasonable relations between labor and management and industrial peace should take root in the country to further develop our economy.

I am glad to hear of a drastic decrease in the number of reported labor disputes and stable relations between labor and management this year. Based on the experience for the past three years, labor and management are required to increase efforts to make industrial peace take root in the country. The government has taken various financial and taxational steps to encourage companies to endeavor to develop technology in an active manner. If necessary, the government will take additional measures.

Market rates will be reflected in foreign exchange rates so that Korean companies can compete on the international market with few obstacles. Efforts will be made to make our position reflected in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and prevent trade frictions.

Q: The government announced measures on April 13 and May 8 to regulate speculation in real estate. But speculation has continued not because the government has no means of controlling it but because it lacks the intention to do so. What do you think of this?

A: Speculation in real estate has been a chronic disease in our economic order and stability. It also creates conflicts among people in different classes. it creates social instability as well. One of the most important economic tasks is to stop speculation in real estate and to clear the way for low-income people to buy houses or rent them at lower costs.

The government has implemented measures announced on April 13 and May 8. As a result, speculation is on the decline. The government plans to enforce laws restricting private land ownership and carry related policies to block speculation in real estate. For this, the government is working on public land prices and a special bill on real estate registration.

The government will continue to discourage businesses and financial institutions from holding more real estate than they need and demand they dispose of their idle land. It is studying ways to increase the supply of land that can be put to productive use. That is needed on a long-term basis to reduce the structural gap between demand for land and housing and their supply. With people's cooperation, I am confident that the government will be able to stop speculation in real estate.

Q: Inflation is a heavy burden on people. A drastic measure is needed to promote stability in prices for low-income people in particular.

A: Consumer prices had risen more than 7 percent by the end of July.

Price increases have slowed since July. But we are worried more about prices because of unstable oil prices resulting from a new Middle East situation. We will be able to keep the domestic oil prices at the present level until the end of this year despite price hikes in the world market. This will be made possible with oil inventories held by the government and the private sector, and the oil being transported (to Korea).

Because our reliance on Iraq and Kuwait for oil imports has been low, we will not have much difficulty in making up the balance. However, if the Middle East military conflict continues and sharply pushes up oil prices, the effects will inevitably spill over to damage the domestic economy, including inflation.

The price spiral of this year is attributable to the high wage increases of the last three years and rocketing real estate prices since the latter half of last year, which have in turn sent up housing rents. The unusually long rainy spell this summer has also increased the prices of such seasonal produce as vegetables and the steep climb in some building material prices also helped fuel overall inflation. Because the price-push factors will continue to accumulate, the government is making all-out efforts to stabilize prices, the foremost task in its economic policy. To this end, it will take the following measures.

First, it will manage to stabilize private consumption and construction investments to head off inflationary pressures stemming from overheated domestic demand.

Second, it will make maximum efforts not to raise various public utility rates, despite numerous cost-pushing elements.

Third, it will try to ensure a smooth supply of daily necessities by the timely release of government stockpiles as well as importation from abroad for filling up material shortfalls.

Fourth, it will step up policy efforts for energy conservation.

Fifth, it will induce normalized monetary flow through stable monetary control and curbing realty speculation so that it can help to wipe out inflationary fear among the people.

For price stability, public cooperation and moderation is needed more than anything else. All the people should exert self-control to refrain from excessive wage hikes and create a frugal social atmosphere with reasonable consumption practices at some inconvenience to themselves.

Q: Mr. President, it is said that you are also blessed in family life with two children who proved themselves excellent students as graduates of Seoul National University and good in-laws as new family members. We understand that your granddaughter has celebrated her first birthday recently.

A: The granddaughter's birthday party, who is the daughter of my daughter, was held at the baby's father's home, not here. In disregard of whether the girl was given life by my daughter- in-law or my own daughter, I feel peace and joy seeing lovely children. We should try harder to make this land more wonderful and peaceful for the sake of the new generation.

My wife and I sometimes feel lonesome with all the children having left home after marriage. My old mother would not stay here for long, saying that she feels rather bore-some. The entire family will have an opportunity to spend a few days together after a long separation this summer.

Thousands Hoping To Attend Rally Fight Police

SK1508082990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0652 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Several thousand radical students and activists clashed with police troops in the South Korean capital on Wednesday when they tried to march off Yonsei University campus and make their way to the truce village of Panmunjom for a unification rally sponsored by North Korea.

Riot police fired tear gas to disperse the marchers, who in return hurled petrol bombs and rocks as they tried to follow five buses carrying their representatives to the Panmunjom rally. The South Korean Government denied them permission to attend the rally in the North Korean section of the truce village for safety reasons.

The South had sought a written guarantee from North Korea of the security and safe return of visitors to the North during a five-day period of trial cross-border travel to mark Aug. 15, the 45th anniversary of Korean liberation from Japanese rule.

Yi Chang-pok, head of a group of South Korean dissidents invited to the rally, told 10,000 people at the campus sendoff that he and the other delegates would attend the rally to open a new era for reunification. The group gave up its bid to travel to Panmunjom when police blocked thousands of activists from accompanying them on foot. A spokesman said, "our attending the rally will have no meaning if we are not accompanied by observers." The group, mostly members of dissident organizations, decided instead to demonstrate in downtown Seoul later in the day.

Fierce battles erupted when the activists tried to march out of the campus, where they had stayed overnight in preparation for the 56-km march to the border. Dozens of injuries and arrests were reported near Yonsei and in other parts of Seoul by early Wednesday afternoon.

Organizers of the campus rally said they would demonstrate in the streets to denounce the government for interfering in their South-North contact. They said they would demand inter-Korean arms reduction and a peace treaty in a statement signed by representatives from South and North Korea and overseas Korean communities.

A group of 2,000 rightists and members of separated families were also blocked from traveling to the truce village. They held a rally at Freedom Bridge, south of Panmunjom, and accused North Korea of blocking free travel.

The South Korean Government had said it would allow dissidents to attend the North Korea-proposed rally even though other South Korean citizens were barred from the gathering by the North, but only if the North formally guaranteed their safe return. North Korea ignored the South Korean offer and said the South Korean Government should keep its hands off the rally, which it described as a civilian-level contact.

'National Exchange' Dispute With North Continues

Poll Shows Pessimism in South

SK1408055590 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 14 Aug 90 p 1

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The result of a national telephone poll conducted jointly by CHOSON ILBO and the Korean Gallup Research Institute on 10-11 August with 261 men and 272 women over 20-years-old revealed that 81.7 percent of all respondents predicted that "the realization of great national exchange of people is difficult" while only 7.6 percent thought "the exchange will be realized."

To the question, "if the national exchange is not realized, which side should be held responsible," 56.8 percent of the respondents answered that "the North Korean side is responsible" and 12.9 percent replied that "the South Korean side is more responsible." Some 26.2 percent said "both sides are the same."

Asked if President No's proposal for national exchange was timely, 31.3 percent replied "timely"; 30.7 percent, "too late"; and 25 percent, "too early."

Concerning the government's position "to allow the participation of only certain selected organizations, instead of various organizations representing all walks of life, in the 15 August pannational rally at Panmunjom in case the North Korean side insists upon this," 43.2 percent agreed with the government position and 42.1 percent opposed.

Asked "what attitude our government should assume toward the North Korean side in the future," 68.4 percent of respondents said that "we should accept a great deal of North Korea's calls." Thus, the overwhelming majority called for our side's more active position, and only 24.7 percent replied that "there is no need to accept the North Korean side's demands."

Concerning the effort for the reunification made by our government up to now, 32.7 percent of respondents viewed that "the effort is great" and 40 percent said that "the effort is relatively great." Thus, an affirmative evaluation, 72.7 percent, indicated that "the government is striving for reunification."

On the contrary, the view on the North Korean side's reunification effort is negative. Only 12.7 percent think "North Korea is making efforts for national reunification," and the overwhelming majority of 80.4 percent expressed the critical view that "North Korea is not making efforts." As to the possibility of realizing national reunification within the next five years, 71.4 percent of respondents revealed a pessimistic view that "it is difficult" and only 19.1 percent presented an optimistic view that "the reunification will be achieved." [passage omitted]

North Urged To Open Doors

SK1408011790 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Aug 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Pyongyang's Closed-Door Policy"]

[Text] North Korea once again has attested to how tightly its doors are closed by snubbing Seoul's bid to send members of dissident groups to the North as it has selected as "favored to visit it." Seoul Sunday announced its decision to allow members of four groups including Catholic priests "advocating the realization of social justice" and three dissident forces to visit North Korea for the five-day period around tomorrow, Aug. 15, the 45th anniversary of Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

The members of the selected four groups are among the total of more than 61,000 aspirants who have applied for government permission to make visits to North Korea during the given period. Pyongyang adamantly refused to accept even the lists of the aspirants last week. Then Sunday our government proposed that Pyongyang send its liaison officials to Panmunjom yesterday to convey to Seoul its memorandum guaranteeing the safe return to the South of those from the four groups.

A total of 61,355 South Koreans filed applications for visiting the North around Liberation Day by the government-set deadline, in line with the first round of the "grand inter-Korea personal exchanges" or free travel between the two halves of the divided country proposed by President No Tae-u in his special statement on July 20.

This year's Liberation Day had been expected to be particularly noteworthy in that "a pan-Korean national rally" is scheduled at the truce village of Panmunjom on the initiative of Pyongyang on that day attended by a well-organized band of participants from North Korea, Korean overseas residents and a number of South Koreans, in addition to the Seoul-proposed grand personal exchanges through Panmunjom during the Aug. 13-17 period as the initial test case of inter-Korea free travels on Korean traditional holidays.

We want both the pan-national rally and free cross-border travels to be attained so as to open the way for inter-Korean personal exchanges and free travel. National unification should not be a task monopolized by particular groups for their political purposes.

The overriding importance must be placed on an early realization of free mutual visits by all aspirants from the South and North on the condition that their return be safeguarded reciprocally by Seoul and Pyongyang. There are differences between the situation of Korea and Germany as divided countries. But we should take a lesson from the German way of succeeding in the creation of the foundation for unifying two Germanys by forging the identity of one German people. The way has been adopted by West and East Germany by mutually allowing personal and material exchanges as well as TV-radio broadcasting flow into the other side.

First of all, Pyongyang is urged to recognize the South Korean government and show sincerity to promote inter-Korean dialogue and eventually national unification based on reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. To this end, it ought to abandon its hackneyed futile strategy of communizing and unifying the entire Korean peninsula by force or by instigating insurgents in the South to topple the Seoul government. As Seoul does not, Pyongyang should not intervene in domestic affairs of the South if it has the slightest reason in pursuit of Korean reunification through peaceful means. North Korea must cancel its preposterous demands that are intervention in South Korea's domestic affairs, for the abrogation of the National Security Law and release of prisoners convicted of having violated the law.

Sincere Approach Stressed

SK1408064990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0613 GMT 14 Aug 90

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—Travel between the two halves of Korea appears to have been frustrated again Tuesday, with the unwillingness of either side to accommodate the other on procedural matters heightening the wall of distrust between them.

A week of "grand exchanges of people" started on Monday, but no one has yet crossed the heavily guarded Military Demarcation Line in the truce village of Panmunjom, the designated entry point, and the two governments exhibit striking differences over the basic nature of the unprecedented exchange.

In the latest move regarding President No Tae-u's proposal for personal exchanges during Aug. 13-17, North Korea refused on Monday to accept a list of members of

South Korean dissident and radical organizations wanting to travel North during the period.

South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun proposed earlier in the day that the two sides have their liaison officials meet at the truce border village to exchange a list of South Korean citizens wanting to visit North Korea and receive a written guarantee of their personal safety.

North Korea said it welcomed the move to allow dissidents and radicals to visit the North but opposed a liaison officials meeting. The North instead called for direct talks with the South Korean groups for arranging procedures for their trip, a clear indication that it does not want the South Korean Government to interfere in their unprecedented visits, a government official said.

The North's reaction came soon after South Korean National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol announced Sunday that the South was ready to allow dissidents to go to the North for a unification rally, planned by North Korea to mark the 45th anniversary Wednesday of Korea's liberation from Japan. The two sides have traded a flurry of proposals that appeared to be more propaganda than anything else since No declared the grand exchanges July 20, and none was eagerly accepted by other side.

North Korea originally rejected No's offer of free two-way travel, denouncing it as a plot to spoil the rally at Panmunjom, and instead called for abolition of the South's National Security Law and dismantling what they allege is a concrete wall in the Demilitarized Zone as a condition for inter-Korean exchange. The North also renewed its call for high-level authorities and leaders of political parties from both sides to discuss the National Security Law and the concrete wall, which the South says is no more than a series of anti-tank traps.

The North, in what seemed to be a move to confuse the Southern Government, announced it would send a five-member delegation to Seoul to plan the pan-national rally, and the Seoul government accepted the offer. But the visit was aborted due to differences over procedural matters such as who would escort them to Seoul and where the planning session with members of Chonminnyon (the National Alliance of Democratic Movements), co-organizers of the rally, would be held.

A visit by Chonminnyon members to the North early this month was also barred by the government, which is opposed to visits to North Korea by groups selected by the North.

The Seoul government originally made it clear that it would not allow members of any such selected group to visit the North to attend the pan-national rally, but later changed its mind so that the grand exchanges could be realized. The South also tried to hand over the list of more than 60,000 South Koreans wanting to visit the North during the five-day period of cross-border travel and asked the North to guarantee their security and safe return.

The North refused to accept the list but said it welcomed visits by members from four groups—Chonminnyon, the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, the People's Party and a radical student group in Seoul. The South surprisingly agreed and asked for the liaison officials meeting to discuss procedures, mainly security and safe return, which it said had to be guaranteed by the two governments.

The North refused to hold talks between the two governments in connection with the four groups, which were virtually selected by the North, and insisted the matter be directly discussed between the North's rally organizing committee and the groups. Seoul government officials said the North's insistence was unacceptable and a blatant attempt to shift all responsibility to the Southern side. They suggested that the North was unwilling to accept the inter-Korean exchange for fear of a negative impact on North Korean society.

"So the North set conditions that were unacceptable for the South and hoped that the Seoul government would abandon the cross-border travel of its own accord," one said.

But the Seoul government should also be blamed, say critics, as it has vacillated ever since No made the bold proposal for opening the border, which was initially seen as the first real breakthrough in the 40-year history of national division. Both sides must take a more sincere approach to the highly sensitive issue of inter-Korean exchanges, abandoning their counterproductive propaganda war, the critics say.

Dissidents Barred From Contact

SK1408081190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0803 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—A group of activist clergymen and dissidents from South Korea were unable to contact North Korea on Tuesday to discuss plans for a trip to the North as police sealed off their meeting site at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Eight clergymen and more than 40 others tried to cross Freedom Bridge, the only access to the border village, but were stopped by the police. They had hoped to discuss plans to celebrate mass in Pyongyang on Wednesday and in Panmunjom on Thursday. More than 30 radical students were arrested while trying to cross the bridge and eleven members of a dissident group also tried in vain to penetrate the police blockade of the border village. The groups were all invited to visit the North during the period of inter-Korean personal exchange Aug. 13-17.

The South Korean Government said it had to prevent the contact because North Korea refuses to formally guarantee the security and safe return of visitors. North

Korea has consistently demanded that South Korea stay out of the contacts between private South and North Korean organizations wishing to send their members across the border, virtually frustrating President No Tae-u's unprecedented travel proposition.

North Should Shed 'Deception'

SK1508004490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Frustrated Inter-Korea Travel"]

[Text] The tactics of evasion and obstruction employed by North Korea aborted the proposed free visits between people from the two divided parts of Korea this week. The long-cherished dream of millions of our compatriots on either side of the border to visit their old homes and reunite with their separated relatives has been shattered.

Earlier, President No Tae-u said that the Seoul government would allow all Koreans to cross the frozen demarcation line for free mutual visits for five days around the propitious Liberation Day that falls today. It came as a most timely and fitting expression of Seoul's open-door policy and profound concern over the agony of the many dispersed Koreans. Thus, applications were received from prospective North Korea- bound visitors for transmission to the North Korean side to begin necessary mutual procedures. But Pyongyang refused to accept the roster and work together with Seoul to realize an initial exchange of people, including those who might be coming to the south from the north.

Instead, the north Koreans insisted on dealing directly with and receiving some select groups of dissidents and radicals in the south who are in their good graces, free from the administrative jurisdiction of south Korea. Our government bent its original position to permit their northern trip with minimum control. However, the north Koreans kept balking at these and other visits on various pretexts.

The abiding interest of north Korea has been from the beginning in luring as many north Korea sympathizers under cover of reunification crusaders to a propaganda rally to be staged by north Korea at Panmunjom on the liberation anniversary. Opening a crack in the closed border and facilitating the reunion of separated families and home visits were not its intention.

Above all, north Korean Communists should be taken to task for sabotaging our earnest effort to clear the way for unlocking the closed door or north Korea and enabling the reunion and home-coming of the countless number of our displaced fellow countrymen.

The time is long past for north Korea to shed its bad old policy of deception and betrayal with regard to our honest and practical search for ways of removing mistrust and starting free exchanges of mail and visits to work toward the eventual goal of Korean unification. The frustrated dissidents and unification enthusiasts might well find fault with the shady and inhibitive trick of north Koreans, instead of laying the blame on the legitimate approach of the Seoul government to inter-Korea exchanges. A complaint could be lodged with the latter, however, for its naivete in suggesting travel to the north to the aspiring people here with little assurance of its realization.

No Tae-u Address Marks Liberation Anniversary

SK1508020090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Tex] Mokchon, South Korea, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u reaffirmed on Wednesday that his government is willing to discuss with North Korea "without limitation all issues, including political and military questions."

In a speech to the nation on the 45th anniversary of the Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule, No expressed his hope that talks between the prime ministers of the two Koreas will see "substantive progress" in South-North reconciliation and pave the way for an early inter-Korean summit.

"In particular, we are willing to discuss in earnest the issue of arms control with the aim of eliminating threats of war," No said in a ceremony marking the anniversary at Independence Hall at Mokchon South of Seoul. The chief executive stressed that the South was "fully prepared" to discuss without limitation all political and military issues.

"It is my conviction that the time has come ... to hold talks on a whole range of issues from the joint renunciation of the use of military force to the signing of a nonaggression pact, the replacement of the present Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty and the mutual establishment of permanent representative offices in Seoul and Pyongyang," he said. The president expressed regret that North Korea was using "preposterous arguments and conditions" to block a trial five-day period of cross-border travel coinciding with Liberation Day that he had proposed on July 20, but said his government would "tirelessly" endeavor to realize inter-Korean exchanges of people because they are an "indispensable step" toward reunification."

"We will make all necessary preparations to enable citizens from the two parts of Korea to unrestrictedly visit any place they want during any period agreeable to the North, be it the coming Chusok (Harvest Moon Festival) or Christmas or New Year," he added. No, whose successful pursuit of reconciliation with socialist countries has won plaudits at home and abroad, said there was a need to open "a new era of reconciliation and cooperation" between South and North Korea and pointed out that cold war rivalry throughout the world is now drawing to an end.

Calling Germany's move to reunite "vivid testimony to the momentous changes," No said, "this movement toward openness and reform represents the inexorable course of history." He said Korea should not remain the only country on earth still partitioned by cold war confrontation.

"There no longer remain any big external obstacles to inter-Korean reconciliation and unity. Both the East and the West support our endeavors to transform division and confrontation in our land into durable peace with a view to promoting coexistence and coprosperity," No said. Taking his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco in June as evidence of the changes surrounding the Korean peninsula, No said signs are appearing that the Korean situation is headed toward a "big change."

"I am confident that the next four to five years will see a decisive movement in the direction of unification," he said. Devoting virtually the entire speech to inter-Korean issues, No said the South Korean Government will continue to strive with "patience and good faith" to realize exchanges with North Korea through dialogue based on mutual trust.

Foreign Minister Comments on Northern Diplomacy

SK1208022390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Aug 90 p 5

["Excerpts" of interview with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung on the occasion of the anniversary of THE KOREA HERALD's founding]

[Text] Question: The possibility of an agreement between South and North Korea concerning their U.N. membership seems very low at the moment. What is the government's strategy to cope with the situation?

Answer: North Korea, in the past, persisted in objecting to any Korean representation in the United Nations before Korean reunification, alleging that it would perpetuate the national division. However, facing the recent unification processes of Germany and Yemen, both U.N. members and divided nations, and the mounting world opinion supporting the Republic of Korea's U.N. membership, North Korea recently came out with the idea of "joint U.N. membership between South and North Korea with one seat."

We think that the idea of single-seat U.N. membership of the two Koreas is incompatible with the reality of the present inter-Korean relationship, international practices related to U.N. membership, and the qualification of U.N. membership set out in the charter.

Despite the problems and impracticality of the North Korean idea, we are willing to have dialogue with the North concerning the question of Korea's U.N. membership. Through such dialogue, we seek to persuade North Korea to take a realistic stance on the issue.

As we continue our efforts to persuade North Korea through dialogue on the one hand and to further our northern diplomacy toward socialist countries, especially to Soviet Union and China, on the other, we will apply for U.N. membership when we judge that a favorable atmosphere is crated.

Q: North Korea is reported to have stepped up efforts to improve ties with the south's allies including the United States, West Germany, Canada and the Philippines. Are there any concrete signs of change in the relations?

A: Recently, North Korea is strengthening its diplomatic efforts to improve relations with friendly countries. By doing so, North Korea is trying to overcome its isolation from the outside world, half self-imposed and half inflicted by our successful northern policy and democratic reforms in its once socialist allies in East Europe.

In October 1988, the United States eased its diplomatic sanctions against North Korea to support our July 7 declaration to reduce tension and achieve peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula. Since then, the United States has held 11 counselor-level meetings with North Korea in Beijing, and had occasional academic exchanges with North Korea. Recently, North Korea made a conciliatory gesture to the United States by returning through Panmunjom the remains of five American soldiers who were killed during the Korean War.

Despite such conciliatory guestures, however, North Korea's basic posture has remained unchanged. The worldwide tide of reconciliation and cooperation is yet to reach the coast of North Korea. North Korea is strongly resisting the world trend of reform and openness. As a result, little progress has been made on its efforts to improve relations with our friendly countries. North Korea should abandon its policy of communizing the whole Korean Peninsula by force, and truly open its society to the outside world to improve relations with our friendly countries.

Q: How much influence do you think the Soviet Union can exert on North Korea for its opening?

A: The Soviet Union is, in fact, the closest ally of North Korea in terms of every field, political, military, economic and diplomatic. First of all, the Soviet Union is the main supplier of North Korea's weapons systems. The Soviet Union is still providing military assistance to Pyongyang.

The Soviet Union is also North Korea's most important and largest trading partner. North Korea's trade with the Soviet Union represents more than half of its total foreign trade. In addition, the debt of North Korea to the Soviet Union amounts to 2.2 billion rubles.

North Korea, suffering from its lagging economy and having little access to Western markets, capital and technology, needs continuing economic assistance from the Soviet Union including transfer of industrial plants and technologies. The Soviet Union is also a major oil supplier to North Korea. These facts well indicate how heavily North Korea is dependent on the Soviet Union in economic and military terms.

In light of such heavy dependence of North Korea, the Soviet Union is believed to have a considerable influence on North Korea.

Q: How do you see the prospects of negotiations on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union?

A: Many analysts believe that the Soviet Union feels it necessary to have closer economic cooperation with Korea in connection with its worsening economic situation. On our part, we take great interest in expanded economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. Our two countries are not only geographically close but also we found great potential for economic interchange on the basis of complimentarity and mutual benefit.

We believe that economic cooperation should not be separated from the process of the normalizing relations because the governmental commitment and guarantee is essential for the expanded exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. Instead, these two should be pursued concurrently.

The decision by the Korean Government to dispatch a government delegation to the Soviet Union is based on the outcome of the close consultations between the Governments of Korea and the Soviet Union, which indicated the time is ripe for opening talks for normalization of relations as well as identifying areas of economic cooperation at a high governmental level.

I am basically optimistic about the prospects of the relations.

Our government delegation recently visited the Soviet Union and had a very useful exchange of views on strengthening bilateral relations and agreed to have the second round of talks in Seoul in September.

Given the spirit of the San Francisco summit meeting, I am of the view that both governments fully share the need to normalize bilateral relations and expand further the economic cooperation to our mutual benefit. I assume at this stage that concrete steps will be taken by both governments toward this end in the near future.

Q: What is the U.S. Government's position on increasing economic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union?

A: The United States has been positively supporting Korea's northern diplomacy. Especially, the United States, on the judgment that the advancement in Korea-Soviet relations contributes greatly to the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula, has consistently supported the process of improving Korea-Soviet relations. The U.S. Government has also been speaking on our behalf toward the Soviet Union as often as opportunities permit.

At the Korea-U.S. summit meeting held in Washington on June 6, President No explained to President Bush the results of the Korea-Soviet summit meeting held in San Francisco on June 4. At the meeting the two presidents agreed that it would be desirable for Korea and the United States to cooperate for a joint advancement by private firms into the Soviet Union.

At the Korea-U.S. foreign ministers' meeting held in Singapore on July 31, I informed Secretary of State James Baker of our plan to send a government delegation to the Soviet Union from Aug. 2 to discuss the matters of stabalishing diplomatic relations and promoting economic cooperation. I also explained to Secretary Baker that we are pursuing simultaneously the establishment of diplomatic relations and the promotion of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Secretary Baker appreciated the Korea-Soviet government representatives' meeting as an advance in the normalization of relations between the two countries. He also expressed his support for our government's position and efforts in improving Korea-Soviet relations.

Q: The government is often criticized for having used the outcome of its northern diplomacy for purposes of domestic politics. What is your reaction to the criticism?

A: I wish to categorically reject the criticism that the government has misused northern diplomacy for domestic politics. As is well known, the primary purpose of northern diplomacy is to help create favorable conditions for the settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula and for the eventual unification of Korea. As you have mentioned, northern diplomacy was instrumental in achieving a remarkable success which includes the establishment of diplomatic relations with almost all the Eastern European countries and with Mongolia this year. Such criticism might be motivated to dilute the remarkable achievement that we made with northern diplomacy.

I wish to emphasize the importance of national consensus in our efforts to improve relations with socialist countries, which is one of the most important guidelines in pursuing northern diplomacy. Taking this opportunity, I would like to ask for the understanding and support of THE KOREA HERALD and its readers which, I believe, is necessary to make this policy effort a success.

Q: Is it possible for President No to visit China this fall as reported?

A: In pursuit of northern diplomacy, we have given priority to the improvement of relations with China. China, as our neighbor and a major ally of North Korea, has played a constructive role in easing tension on the Korean Peninsula. President No's visit to China, when realized, will certainly serve as a significant momentum in bringing peace and prosperity to Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula.

President No had been directly involved in successfully hosting the Seoul Asian Games and Seoul Olympiad in 1986 and 1988 respectively. If the Chinese, taking this fact into account, invite President No to the Beijing Asian Games, we will consider it favorably. But up to now, we have received neither an invitation nor any indication from the Chinese side.

Q: How do you see the prospects of Korea-Chinese relations?

A: The bilateral exchanges and cooperation between Korea and China have been greatly increased in economic, cultural and social areas. For example, the trade volume and the exchange of visits doubled in two years, reaching $3.1 billion and 23,000 persons, respectively, in 1989.

We expect such cooperative relations will continue to expand in various fields, and particularly, the coming Beijing Asian Games will provide an opportunity to further increase such relations and promote understanding between our two countries.

During the games, we plan to participate in all cultural and academic events including performances by Korean traditional dance troupes, so that we can demonstrate our peace-loving image and convey our wish to share friendship with the Chinese people.

The Chinese side agreed to allow direct charter flights between Seoul and Beijing to transport the Korean participants during the games. Ferryboats will also be launched very soon. The five-member KOC attache office was opened officially in mid-June.

I am optimistic that based on such progress we have made so far in various fields, Korea-Chinese relations will make steady development in the future, finally bringing a breakthrough in the political relationship between the two countries.

Q: You recently attended the second ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Singapore. What kind of role do you think Korea should play in the forum?

A: Given that the APEC meeting was initiated at the last year's summit between Korea and Australia, we will keep playing a leading role in fostering the regional cooperative mechanism to enhance our diplomatic status in Asia and the Pacific and to gain substantive economic interests.

In this regard, we will make the utmost efforts in preparation for the third APEC ministerial meeting to be held in Seoul next year so that the APEC will be a successful regional forum. By all indications, the Seoul meeting promises to be important in setting the future direction of APEC. Because of its timing for one thing, it will provide a unique opportunity to grapple with post Uruguay Round trade issues in the regional context.

With the European Community 1992 market integration closer at hand, its implications for APEC will become clearer, necessitating, perhaps, a more coherent, concerted APEC response. Substantial progress is expected by that time in most of the cooperation projects under way. All these factors, combined with further developments in the regional situation, will certainly have bearings on the institutionalization of APEC and our role in it. Though loose and exploratory at the moment, APEC process will be positively moving ahead to become a comprehensive regional organization in Asia and the Pacific.

Q: Please elaborate your view on the arms control on the Korean Peninsula.

A: In view of the newly emerging security situations on and around the Korean Peninsula, arms control process has become an important issue between the two parts of Korea as one of the means for reduction of tensions which will help establish peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Though arms control is not a panacea for establishing peace and stability, some successful developments of arms control in Europe are implying to us various aspects which would be conducive to easing tensions and paving the road to reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

In this regard, in order to cope with arms control issues effectively, the government has formed a special working group composed of high-ranking government officials under direct control of the president.

On our part, we will first try to find out common or similar points between proposals of South and North Korea, on the basis of which we will build political and military confidence-building measures. With a view to bearing successful fruit in arms control negotiations, we are prepared to discuss arms control issues at the forthcoming South-North prime ministers' talks.

However, since arms control issues are also linked with the U.S. forces in Korea, we will have close consultations with the U.S. Government also.

Q: Any possibility for further U.S. troop cuts beside the one already announced?

A: Both Korean and U.S. sides are of the view that close and prior consultations are essential between the two governments on the future role and size of U.S. forces in Korea (USFK) and that sufficient combined combat capabilities should be maintained as long as North Korea poses a serious threat to our national security.

Based on such understanding, the U.S. and Korean Governments have agreed to gradually reduce the USFK in three phases for the next 10 years to the direction that ROK military forces are to assume a leading role in its defense. And the size of USFK will be adjusted contingent upon South-North Korea relations as well as the situation of Korean Peninsula at the last stage of each phase.

In view of this, if there is considerable progress in arms control talks on the Korean Peninsula, both Korea and the United States will try to seek further steps for easing tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Q: Are there plans for boosting economic relations with developing countries?

A: Our country's economic cooperation with developing countries dates from the second half of the 1960s, when our government started providing technical assistance.

Until now, we have invited to Korea about 7,500 trainees from more than 100 developing countries and dispatched about 450 experts to those countries. Amounts of the grants to developing countries from 1977 to 1990 totaled 89.6 billion won, and the size of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) founded in 1987, has grown to 155 billion won.

Actually, our aid has been relatively modest both in absolute amounts and in relations to GNP, but it will continue to increase incoming years in proportion as our economy expands. On the other hand, with the size of bilateral aid ever increasing, the government recently decided to reorganize the existing cooperation systems being managed by several governmental branches in a way that a single integrated agency under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will handle the works. By doing so, it is expected that our country can obtain more efficiency in implementing cooperations with developing countries.

Plans for U.S.-DPRK 'Hot Line' Reported

SK1408131590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1245 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—The United States will open a hot line with North Korea soon in an effort to encourage the opening of the world's most closed regime, the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) reported Tuesday.

In an interview with a KBS correspondent in Washington, Spence Richardson, chief of the State Department Korea desk, said, "It's something, I think, should come fairly soon."

The KBS said the opening of the hot line was imminent and would be announced shortly. The United States and North Korea have held diplomatic contacts in Beijing since last year as South Korea has been increasing contacts with the Soviet Union and China. Last month, Desaix Anderson, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, said U.S. Administration might improve relations with North Korea if it gives up terrorism, signs the nuclear safeguards agreement and returns the remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean war.

Dissidents Considering Meeting U.S. Ambassador

SK1408091290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0852 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—The U.S. ambassador in Seoul has agreed to meet with two dissident organizations to discuss peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and four other issues.

In a letter handed to Chonminnyon, or the national alliance of democratic movements [National Democratic Alliance of Korea], the U.S. Embassy proposed a round-table discussion attended by nine panelists at a place to be agreed on later on a date between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. The panelists will be three American diplomats, including Ambassador Donald Gregg, three members of Chonminnyon and Chondaehyup, or the National Alliance [Council] of [University] Student Representatives, and three specialists on Korea-U.S. relations, the letter said.

Chonminnyon said it would discuss the American proposal with Chondaehyup before deciding whether to accept it. A Chonminnyon official, however, hinted at a dissatisfaction with Gregg's call for a closed-door discussion.

"The debate should be open to the press, it should be attended by reporters. And the three panelists from the embassy do not include the commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, Gen. [General] Robert Riscassi, who is indispensable to debate on national peaceful reunification and removal of the U.S. military base in Seoul to outside the capital," he said. The two dissident groups proposed an open debate on the issues on July 25.

No Asks for Activation of Early-Warning System

SK1508014690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday asked for full operation of U.S. early warning systems around the Korean Peninsula.

No made the request when he was called on by Gen. [General] Robert RisCassi, commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, at Chongwadae, a presidential spokesman said. Gen. RisCassi briefed the President on recent international military moves over the Middle East crisis.

Pointing out the possibility of regional conflicts breaking out simultaneously in various parts of the world, No stressed the need to further intensify Korea-U.S. security cooperation. The President also requested that U.S. early warning systems fully operate to head off possible conflicts in the region.

President No, who heads the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, met party Chairman Kim Chong-pil at Chongwadae yesterday and discussed ways to resolve the current political stalemate. No and Kim also exchanged views on recent international developments, including the Middle East crisis arising from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Kim returned from a two-week trip to Japan Monday.

The two agreed to step up efforts to solidify party unity and restore political, economic and social stability at an early date. They also shared the view that raising the issue of a constitutional revision this year is not desirable. Also present at the briefing were Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun; Chong Ho-hun, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and U.S. ambassador to Korea, Donald Gregg.

Ties to Moscow Would Help Relations With North

SK1508005090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 p 2 (supplement)

[By staff reporter Yi Song-yol]

[Text] Forty-five years have passed since the land and the people of Korea were divided as soon as they were liberated from Japanese colonial rule, leaving Korea the only nation still separated since World War II.

Envious of the rapid and dramatic process of reunification in Germany and Yemen, Many Koreans both in the south and the north, ethnically and linguistically a homogeneous people, are beginning to feel that they've too long and too stubbornly been slaves of ideology and hostility. Recently, Seoul and Pyongyang have exchanged proposals for inter- Korea contacts and exchanges, but most of them were rejected by the other side. It seems that both sides have not yet completely given up political propaganda in their approach to development of inter-Korea relations and reunification. It's a problem that the minds and souls of leaders of the south and the north are not filled with burning zeal for reunification of the two Koreas.

"So two of the most important things," says Rep. [Representative] Chong Chae-mun, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's International Relations Committee, "are complete democratization of both the south and the north and restoration of mutual trust on the part of the governments and peoples of the two sides."

"On that basis, or in parallel with efforts for it, the two sides should seek cross-recognition by the four powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan—in a formula of four-plus (4 + 2)," Chong proposes. Of course, the two should exert efforts for inter-Korea exchanges of goods, people and capital, and the south, when it can afford to, is advised to give the north economic aid in various forms, he told The Korea Herald.

Chong, a two-term lawmaker and close deputy of ruling party leader Kim Yong-sam, played an important role in Kim's Moscow visit in March and his fruitful talks with the Soviets. Pointing out differences between the Germanys and Koreas, Chong says that in Korea the 4 + 2 would have to be the vital element while south and north are urged to make sincere efforts in the 2 + 4 formula.

To ease military tension on the Korean Peninsula, Chong stresses the need for arms reduction between south and north Korea and for reduced military influence on the peninsula by the United States and the Soviet Union. North Korea has proposed that both sides reduce their troops to 10,000, but "what is more important is to reduce the number of offensive weapons," Chong says, adding that Koreans should think about "the defense of a reunified country."

For arms reduction, the Soviet Union should decrease its military aid to the north and "we need for Soviets' cooperation in that matter," he notes. Touching on the recent improvement in Seoul-Moscow relation, he said "it would in the end be a momentum to reduce the military influence of the two superpowers on the peninsula, helping to guarantee peaceful co-existence of the south and north."

Normalized Seoul-Moscow ties would make the Soviets pressure Pyongyang to democratize and seek peaceful ways of reunifying Korea, he predicts. He also says Seoul's economic cooperation with Moscow will be beneficial to both countries. Economic ties between the two countries will contribute to eased tension on the peninsula in the political and military sense, which may allow the south to reduce the burden of defense spending which amounts to some $10 billion a year.

"With the saved money, we could give the north economic aid or solved our housing and traffic problems," Chong says. But on the form of economic cooperation with the Soviets, Chong agrees with government officials, proposing tied loans or barter trade, not a cash loan of billions of dollars. And for friendship as well, south Korea and the Soviet Union should deepen their economic ties, he suggests. Chong also hoped the September Asian Games in Beijing would be a good occasion to develop closer ties with China.

East and West Germany started exchanges some 20 years ago, but south and north Korea, which fought a fierce war in 1950-53, are only beginning to after years of hostility and distrust. Are the scars of the catastrophic three-year war so deep?

The prospects for reunification, Chong says, "largely depend on the eagerness of the two peoples—whether they truly want to become one."

South, USSR To Exchange Trade Representatives

SK1308022590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle to exchange trade representatives to vitalize economic and trade cooperation, a high- ranking Korean Government official said Monday.

The agreement was reached during official talks this month in Moscow on normalizing diplomatic ties and enhancing economic cooperation, said the official, who declined to be identified. The two sides agreed it was desirable to exchange government-level trade representatives to promote bilateral economic cooperation and agreed to conclude details in a second round of official talks in Seoul in September, he said.

Exchanging trade representatives is expected to be followed by normalization of diplomatic ties if the second talks go smoothly, the official said. Korea holds that the two sides should move directly to full diplomatic relations without passing through an intermediate stage, but accepted the Soviet proposal on trade representatives because it is Soviet practice to maintain a trade representative separately from its embassy in the United States and Japan to handle external trade, he said.

"Accordingly, the trade representative is not an intermediate stage but a separate organization between the two governments for exclusively managing bilateral trade," the official said. The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) and Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry have already exchanged trade offices, which will exist as private-level organizations for trade cooperation even after the two sides exchange government-level trade representatives, the official said.

Ways To Economically Aid Soviets To Be Studied

SK1508013690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 11

[By staff reporter Sim Yong-su]

[Text] Korea will study ways to extend economic assistance to the Soviet Union once the latter asks for such assistance, Korea's top economic policy-maker said.

"Our government fully intends to examine ways to provide economic aid within our capacity to the Soviet Union if such assistance is requested," Deputy Premier and Minister of the Economic Planning Board Yi Sung-yun said in an exclusive interview with THE KOREA HERALD on the occasion of the paper's 37th anniversary. Also an influential member of Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, Yi, however, quickly denied that Korea has received such a request from the Soviet Union through formal channels. He also ruled out the possibility that the Soviet Union will demand economic aid from Korea as the price for diplomatic normalization (with Seoul).

Yi was responding to recent news reports that the Soviet Union is asking for economic assistance from Korea, in return for opening diplomatic relations. However, he strongly hinted that Seoul may extend economic aid to the Soviet Union if it is necessary for normalizing relations with Moscow.

"Although economic cooperation beyond our means in return for the establishment of diplomatic ties is not desirable, we are aware of the significant contribution that the establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and the Soviet Union can make to the improvement of relations between South and North Korea," Yi said. The absence of formal ties between the two countries remains a great obstacle to the development of mutual economic cooperation, Yi said, though bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific and technological fields has expanded at a tremendous speed.

"Because formal economic agreements on such issues as investment protection and double taxation avoidance have not been concluded yet, investments by private enterprises still face higher risks," the deputy premier said. The establishment of diplomatic ties along with the conclusion of an economic agreement will consolidate the basis for mutual cooperation, thus accelerating economic cooperation, he said. Furthermore, the establishment of formal ties (between Seoul and Moscow) will contribute much to the amelioration of relations between Korea and China as well as South and North-Korea.

Recent domestic news reports said that Korea and the Soviet Union may be able to conclude their just-started talks on diplomatic normalization as well as formal economic agreements such as an investment protection guarantee this year, probably as early as September. Yi praised Korea's northern policy, initiated by President No Tae-u, and said it will benefit the Korean economy in various ways.

"Through economic cooperation with socialist countries, Korea can diversify her overseas markets, facilitate structural adjustment of her own industries and secure and import natural resources on a more stable basis," the nation's chief government economic planner told this paper. At the same time, Yi said, the socialist countries, through economic cooperation with Korea, can obtain technical knowhow regarding the manufacturing of consumer goods and capital, as well as the government-led economic development experience of Korea. He also dismissed as unfounded expectations by some private economists here that the Soviet market may bring Korea a new economic boom something like the "Vietnam boom" in the 1960s and the Middle East construction boom in the 1970s.

"I think that the situation in the Soviet Union is somewhat different from that in Vietnam and the Middle East," Yi stressed. He also warned against a hasty rush by Korean conglomerates into the Soviet market.

"Although the Soviet Union has a huge market, abundant natural resources and sophisticated technologies, there is no need for us to make hasty decisions and act in a careless and hurried fashion," he said. "Rather, we need to be patient and prudent in pursuing economic cooperation with the Soviet Union since there remains some confusion and many uncertainties in the Soviet Union due to the insufficiency of freely-convertible currencies and the lack of a firmly established market-economy system."

On the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the deputy premier predicted that despite various difficulties in the proceedings of multilateral negotiations, a compromise settlement is expected to be produced by the deadline of the end of this year. If the negotiations break down, Yi said, it may have a deleterious impact on world trade, and the United States is expected to resume trade pressure (on Korea). Yi also denied some speculation both at home and abroad that Korea-U.S. relations have cooled because of Seoul's drive to improve ties with the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union. There haven't been any major trade negotiations such as last year's Super 301 talks, and visits by senior U.S. trade officials and congressional leaders have fallen off significantly, Yi said.

"This may be looked on by some people as meaning that the two countries have become estranged, and that one possible reason for the Korean government's reduced attention is its stepped-up northern policy," he said. "But the Korean government's northern policy has provided new opportunities for cooperation toward mutual benefits, contrary to the general belief," Yi said.

The important role the United States played in the Korea-Soviet summit in June in San Francisco is a convincing example of this, the deputy premier said. However, it would be untrue, he quickly added, to say that there are no outstanding trade issues between the two nations.

First, the U.S. government has yet to cast off its doubts regarding the Korean government's role in the self-restraint movement against imported luxury goods, and is still watching for intellectual property rights infringements, he said. Secondly, Yi said, the United States is also showing keen interest in the domestic deregulation toward branches of American banks, and is negotiating for the setup of a multilateral clause for eliminating subsidies to the shipbuilding industry.

Asian Game Flights Scheduled To Start 10 Sep

SK1308030390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean airliners will ferry more than 6,500 athletes and spectators to China for the Beijing Asian Games from Sept. 10, the Transportation Ministry said Monday.

Korean Air and Asiana Airlines will carry 2,418 athletes and team officials and 4,113 tourists to China over 20 days, ministry officials said. More than 49,500 people have applied for the ASIAD package tours, offered by the ministry and the Korea Tourist Association for those wanting to see the games and cheer the Korean team. South Korea and China lack diplomatic links and do not issue tourist visas, and the package tours are available only during the games.

The Korean planes will return to Seoul empty after dropping off their passengers in Beijing and Tianjin, and will fly empty to the Chinese cities in late September to carrying back the Korean passengers. Korean air will use B-747s and A-300s for its flights to China, scheduled for Sept. 10, 15, 18, 20, 21, 24 and 28. Asiana will use B-737s for its flights, scheduled for Sept. 14, 20, 28 and 30.

Malta's Prime Minister To Visit Counterpart

SK1408054090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0528 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Eddie Fenech Adami, prime minister of Malta, will visit South Korea on Aug. 21-24 as a guest of Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Adami and his wife will pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u and meet with senior government officials to promote bilateral friendly relations, the ministry said. The two nations resumed diplomatic relations in January 1988. Malta's socialist administration severed the ties in 1971. The two countries set up diplomatic ties in 1965.

Correction to Visits During Asiad Games

SK1308113390

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Visits Allowed During Games," published in the 13 August East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23:

Column two, third paragraph, only sentence make read ...that approximately 1,000 North Koreans, including 600 athletes... (supplying missing words "North Koreans")

Burma

Myo Nyunt Denies Delaying Transfer of Power

BK0608103290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command, in the company of the members of the Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council and staff officers of the Yangon Military Command, this morning explained to the officers, noncommissioned officers, privates, and dependent families belonging to the 90th Infantry Regiment stationed in Thanhlyin [Syriam] the developing conditions in the country today, attempts by some organizations to break up the Defense Services, and the stand of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] as explained in its Announcement No. 1/90. [passage omitted]

Addressing the meeting, Commander Major General Myo Nyunt said it is necessary for the military personnel and their dependent families to have a correct attitude and to (?be mature in their thinking). It is also essential to understand the true situation in the country.

You, officers as well as privates, know that the reason we joined the Defense Services is because of our sense of patriotism. Although all sorts of slanderous statements are being made to denigrate the way that we have been conducting our duties, it is obvious that not every man can do the tough job of a soldier. Officers and soldiers will be required to safeguard the state from all the dangers threatening it.

Regarding the question of the handing over of power which the local as well as foreign organizations have been talking about, the commander said you already know that the SLORC has issued Announcement No. 1/90 to clarify its firm and decisive stand in this regard, and hence I will not go into detail. The transfer of power will take place only in accordance with a strong and definitive constitution that is accepted by all the people. Explanations have repeatedly been given by me and the state leaders while numerous articles have also been written on how important it is for the state to have a constitution and why it needs a constitution that will last for a long time. Hence, I will not be giving any further explanation on this subject.

Many accusations have been made both verbally as well as in writing that we are trying to stall or delay the handing over of power. If you, soldiers and your dependents, are weak in your reasoning power, you may have doubts and think that their propaganda is true. I only wish to raise one point of argument here so that you will come to understand.

Some candidates have filed complaints regarding the elections in their own constituencies. We have announced the formation of tribunals to hear these complaints. It is easy for all to see whether it would be fair or right to announce the convening of the Parliament or the convening of a conference with the elected representatives before the hearing of these complaint cases can be completed. The SLORC Announcement No. 1/90 contains clarifications in this regard while the SLORC secretary-1 has already said in his speech that preparations have been made to convene the parliament and have a conference with the representatives. There is no need for us to bide for time or delay the handing over of power. Military personnel and their dependents must clearly understand that we are acting only in accordance with the law.

If one reviews our performance from the time we assumed the responsibilities of the state until today, the question of whether or not we yearn for power becomes very obvious. Since all the important tasks of the state are in our charge, we, the military personnel, including officers and privates, personally know the extent of our burden and our untiring efforts.

We will act according to the process underlined in SLORC Announcement No. 1/90 regarding the handing over of power, and the handing over of power will definitely come about. What you must understand is that because of the circumstances and for the sake of the country, what we have been doing, with determination, is comparable to balancing and carrying ten pots of water on one's head.

Regarding the plans to break up the Defense Services, the commander said the situation today is that some local organizations and unscrupulous people have been publishing printed materials and various bulletins, both legal as well as illegal, and you may have come across them. These publications, particularly the illegal ones, carry writings and instigations by the BCP [Burma Communist Party] underground elements. You know very well that the BCP has been devoting itself to the cause of breaking up the Defense Services. In some legal publications also, there are clues of BCP elements working from behind the scenes.

We, the Defense Services personnel and dependents, should not underestimate the threat from the BCP and should be very vigilant against it. The reason I remind you of this is not because we are afraid of the BCP. On the contrary, the Defense Services have already smashed the BCP beyond recovery, and this is known to all. Since we have fought face to face against the BCP, we know its bad habits. The BCP has the habit of throwing sand in the food then letting others eat it and of trying to break up the orchestra if it is not permitted to be the conductor.

Although there are BCP men who have surrendered and come back to the legal fold, most of them have not given up their ideology. We must understand this. You must be more wary of the people who give up arms but not the ideology. I have already explained that the word peace is being dangled as bait to recruit sympathizers and divide the Defense Services. Efforts made to achieve peace through successive eras can be studied in the newspapers and in the books; I have explained this topic many times before. [passage omitted]

I am explaining the events of history because some organizations are saying that once peace is achieved there will be no need to fight the war. Soldiers and their dependents may come to harbor doubts in their minds. It is necessary to understand that those who are trying to break up the Defense Services are doing it not because they want peace but because they first and foremost want to see the Defense Services disintegrate. Hence, as you have already been taught to understand the enemy as well as yourselves, you, soldiers and your dependents, must study and read the writings and statements of the people who are trying to cause division in the Defense Services. After doing that, you must ask about the points on which you are not clear and about their objectives and their ulterior motives. You must also explain what you know to the other soldiers and their dependents.

At this point I wish to talk about some publications. There is a book on the discussions between the United Nationalities League for Democracy and the National League for Democracy regarding the drafting of the state constitution. The book contains information on the views of some national groups regarding the formation of the union and also reflects the importance of drafting a constitution that is acceptable to all the national groups.

Explaining the various attempts to create unrest, the commander said: You may have heard about the instigations to create unrest on 8 August 1990 [the second anniversary of the 1988 mass uprising] by those who wish disturbances to break out again. As we already know the way they work, we will not let a situation similar to the one in 1988 happen again. What I want to tell the officers and the soldiers is that they will resort to the tactics of the BCP underground elements. They may make you the target of their taunts and torments and make you lose your patience. What I want to tell you is that you soldiers should understand their tactics and not respond impulsively. You, officers and soldiers, should act according to the pledges you have made and to the orders of your superiors.

Some justify the confrontation method by saying it is a method used by General Aung San [late national leader]. But do not forget that it was the British imperialists that General Aung San confronted. Although these instigators say things while hiding behind the image of General Aung San, a point to ponder is why, until today, they have not said a word about developing the country under socialism even though socialism was the path chosen by the general.

In conclusion, the commander said it is essential that the officers, soldiers, and their dependent families have a firm understanding of past events and the present situation, as well as what is about to happen in the future. I wish to quote a paragraph from the civics study regarding this matter. Paragraph 121 on the chapter dealing with those who wish to become rulers of a country says: An organization with too many people wanting to be leaders, too many opinionated members, and too many members wanting to take up higher positions will not last for long and will come to ruin shortly. As taught by the civics study, if we study the past events of history, we can forecast what will happen in the future.

You, officers and soldiers, should have a clear understanding that you can make the country either a master or a slave. It is your historic duty to prevent the country from becoming a slave in your time. The commander said that in order to make this happen, it is essential that the Defense Forces always remain united.

The meeting ended at 1300. The divisional commander left the 90th Infantry Regiment in Thanhlyin at 1400 and arrived back at the Yangon Military Command headquarters at 1500.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Further on Malaysians in Kuwait, Oil Supply

Foreign Minister on Deadline

BK1408131190 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Malaysian nationals have been directed to leave Kuwait as soon as possible before 24 August. He said after that deadline, foreign nationals will not be provided with security measures. [passage omitted]

Mahathir on Leaving via Amman

BK1408130390 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq has agreed to allow Malaysian nationals stranded in Kuwait to leave the country via Amman, Jordan. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was confirmed the arrangement after contacting the Iraqi deputy prime minister by telephone. Dr. Mahathir told RTM [Radio, Television Malaysia] of the latest development by telephone moments ago. He advised families of those caught in the Gulf crisis not to worry and to stay calm.

Vehicle Leaves for Baghdad

BK1508071590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working out ways and means to bring Malaysians out of Kuwait and Baghdad by land through Amman for the return to Kuala Lumpur by air. The ministry official told RTM [Radio, Television Malaysia] that they are 144 Malaysians still in Kuwait. A vehicle has left for Baghdad from Amman in Jordan this morning to pick the seven Malaysians at the Malaysian embassy. The Foreign Ministry received all information through telex from various sources which are making efforts to bring back the Malaysians who are reported safe.

Oil Production To Increase

BK1508135990 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister announced that Malaysia will increase its oil production in an effort to extend assistance to certain countries on humanitarian grounds, because certain countries' oil supply was disrupted by the current Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir made the announcement this evening at his office in Kuala Lumpur.

[Begin recording in progress] [Mahathir] ...to supply those countries according to our ability to do so. Currently, we might increase our production by 10,000 barrels, of which 5,000 barrels would be supplied to the Philippines, and we are still considering whether to supply certain other countries that are currently short of oil.

[Unidentified interviewer] [words indistinct]
[Mahathir] Yes, those countries that are without their own petroleum resources are definitely short of oil. We have an agreement with the other ASEAN member countries to supply oil during any emergency. We will give priority to ASEAN member countries. Some non-ASEAN countries have also requested assistance.

[Unidentified interviewer] [words indistinct]
[Mahathir] We cannot avoid raising our petroleum prices according to the market, because if the prices are not increased and our petroleum remains cheap, it will be smuggled out of the country. This has happened to countries with cheap oil prices. As such, this is the burden that we must shoulder, but currently there is no decision yet to increase the oil prices. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Telecommunications Accord Signed With Singapore

BK0708172290 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0829 GMT 7 Aug 90

[By Syed Imran Alsagoff]

[Text] Singapore, Aug 7 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia's privatised Telecoms company, Syarikat Telekom Malaysia (STM), and Singapore Telecoms Tuesday [7 August] signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which will pave the way for upgrading telecommunication links between the two countries. Both sides also agreed to use circuits on a new digital microwave link and establish an optical fibre land line between Singapore and Johor Baharu, capital of the southern Johor state.

Speaking at the signing ceremony at the Singapore Telecom's Comcentre here, STM Executive Chairman Mohamed Rashdan Baba said the MOU symbolised the importance STM placed on Singapore Telecoms as a partner in its international business. He added that the implementation of digital links will facilitate the introduction of new services to help customers operate more effectively in both countries. Rashdan said that Singapore remained the top destination for outgoing telephone calls from Malaysia.

Singapore Telecoms Chairman Kok Boon Hwee said as demand for telecommunications increased, it is imperative that both organisations are prepared to meet the needs of customers by expanding their links. The digital microwave link is expected to be commissioned before the end of this year, meaning better quality and service for customers, he added.

On its part, Singapore Telecoms will invest about Singapore $2.4 million on the digital microwave link and optical fibre land line projects. Another project under the MOU is the setting up of a mobile service link for handphone subscribers. A study is being carried out and the service is likely to be ready either by the end of this year or early next year.

The MOU was signed on behalf of Singapore Telecoms by Kok and its president and chief executive officer, Wong Hung Khim, while STM was represented by Rashdan and Dr. Syed Hussein Mohamed, the executive director.

Singapore

Premier Lee Wins $260,000 Slander Suit Award

BK0708112790 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Aug 90 p 1

[By Cheng Shoong Tat]

[Text] Mr Lee Kuan Yew was yesterday awarded $260,000 in damages in his slander suit against Mr J.B. Jeyaretnam after the High Court accepted all the legal arguments advanced by his Queen's Counsel [QC] during the four-day trial. The Prime Minister was granted interest at 6 percent a year from Sept 1, 1988, and a court order restraining the Workers' Party secretary-general from repeating the slander.

In his 53-page judgment, the key parts of which took 1 ½ hours to read out, Mr Justice Lai Kew Chai also ordered Mr Jeyaretnam to bear the costs of the trial. Mr Jeyaretnam, who has four weeks to appeal against the decision, did not do so yesterday.

Mr Lee's complaint arose from an election rally speech Mr Jeyaretnam delivered to about 7,000 people on Aug 26, 1988, at a Bedok Town Centre carpark.

In a video recording shown in court on the first day of the trial, Mr Jeyaretnam was seen commenting on the suicide of National Development Minister Teh Cheang Wan, who died in 1986 while being investigated for corruption. Mr Jeyaretnam questioned why no inquiry had been ordered into the source of the poison Teh used to kill himself. He also said that Teh should not have been allowed to get away from answering questions and demanded to know why Teh had died.

Mr Justice Lai, who—at the suggestion of both counsel—viewed the video tapes a second time after the trial, agreed with Mr Lee's QC, Mr David Eady, that the speech suggested that Mr Lee had "encouraged or countenanced the suicide for the improper purpose of covering up what, in a full trial, would have been a scandal most embarrassing to the Government and the PAP [People's Action Party]." He accepted Mr Eady's contention that the speech was defamatory in that it meant and was understood to mean that Mr Lee was guilty of dishonorable or criminal conduct.

Examining the defences submitted by Mr Jeyaretnam's QC, Mr Martin Thomas, the judge ruled that the speech amounted to factual allegations, not an expression of opinions or comments. Hence the defence of fair comment could not apply. He added that even if the speech were comment, that defence could not succeed because Mr Jeyaretnam had failed to set out the defamatory meanings he intended to defend against.

He also rejected the "novel defence" of constitutional privilege patterned after the United States Constitution: that the guarantee of free speech in the Singapore Constitution meant that a defendant who unwittingly and without ill will defamed a public figure would not be held liable. He observed that the Singapore Constitution, unlike its US counterpart, sought to balance the need for free speech with the need for protecting reputation by subjecting the constitutional guarantee to the law of defamation. Moreover, there had been no cases in England or Singapore suggesting that "public figures" belong to a special category about whom anything could be said so long as no ill will was intended.

He refused to extend the law to incorporate the American doctrine, adding: "I resolutely set my face against the sort of judicial activism advocated by Mr Thomas."

Having held that the speech was defamatory and that the defences could not succeed, he went on to consider the factors relevant to the determination of the quantum of damages. He noted, among other factors, that the speech amounted to a serious slander implicating Mr Lee in "the unlawful taking of a human life for a sinister purpose" and was made near a busy bus interchange and a food centre to about 7,000 people.

He said that while the award must not be used to punish Mr Jeyaretnam, it must be commensurate with the gravity of the slander and serve as a full and sufficient vindication. He accepted, however, Mr Thomas' mitigating plea that the speech was uttered in the heat of hustings and that Mr Lee had managed to reduce harm to his reputation by his response to Mr Jeyaretnam's allegations. He concluded: "In my view, it cannot be gainsaid that the slander uttered by the defendant in this case was indeed very grave. In my judgment, the fair and reasonable sum as damages for the plaintiff is $260,000."

Cambodia

Politburo Announces Reshuffle of Leading Cadres

BK1508062590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 90

["Communique" of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In light of the imperative requirements of the Cambodian revolution which is at the stage of total self-reliance and in order to enhance the effectiveness of the [words indistinct] in the new situation, the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee in its 14 August session decided to rectify the functions of leading cadres of a number of institutions, ministries, offices, provinces, and cities as follows:

1. Ease the task of Comrade Say Chhum by transferring him from the post of minister of agriculture to the post of standby vice chairman of the Council of Ministers;
2. Transfer and appoint Comrade Nguon Nhel, secretary of the Phnom Penh City Party Committee, as minister of agriculture;
3. Transfer Comrade Sim Ka from the post of vice chairman of the party Central Committee Control Commission to the post of secretary of the Phnom Penh city party committee;
4. Transfer Comrade Thong Khon from the post of deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the People's Committee of Phnom Penh city to the post of deputy minister of information and culture;
5. Transfer Comrade Hok Langdi from the post of deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the People's Committee of Svay Rieng Province to the post of deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the People's Committee of Phnom Penh city;
6. Transfer Comrade Major General El Vansarat from the post of deputy minister of national defense to the party Central Committee Control Commission;
7. Transfer Comrade Khoem Cheasaophoan from the post of vice chairman of the party Central Committee Organization Commission to the post of deputy minister of the State Affairs Inspectorate;
8. Transfer Comrade Um Sarit from the post of secretary of the party committee of Banteay Meanchey Province to the post of vice chairman of the party Central Committee Organization Commission;
9. Transfer and appoint Comrade Chhim Chuon from the post of vice chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions to the post of vice chairman of the party Central Committee Organization Commission;

10. Transfer and appoint Comrade Thang Chhin from the post of expert attached to the party Central Committee Control Commission to the post of vice chairman of the party Central Committee Organization Commission;
11. Appoint Comrade Phouk Samoeun, standing vice chairman of the People's Committee of Svay Rieng Province, as deputy secretary of the Party Committee and chairman of the People's Committee of Svay Rieng Province;
12. Appoint Comrade Vong Kan of the province's party committee as acting secretary of the party committee of Banteay Meanchey Province.

Heng Samrin Speaks at United Front Meeting

BK1308110790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Aug 90

["Excerpts" of speech by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Cambodian State Council, at the fourth session of the fourth congress of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council held in Phnom Penh on 11 August—recorded]

[Text] Today, I am extremely pleased to attend the congress of our Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council, held following the completion of the deeply meaningful 11th session of the fifth party Central Committee and the 19th session of the first National Assembly. The review of the situation by the party Central Committee, like the sessions respectively conducted by the National Assembly and the KUFNCD, has brought about a great many concrete and useful experiences for our advance. The most conspicuous progress made in our common struggle since the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia is our mastery in assuming all the tasks which are concretely making headway in the movement of our struggle. Our self-confidence has been enhanced. As a matter of fact, the endeavor of assuming common tasks, which have achieved a collective improvement, is attributed to the great contribution made by our front.

I would like to sincerely praise all members of the KUFNCD National Council in provinces, cities, districts, wards, provincial towns, communes, and villages as well as all the Buddhist monks, senior citizens, monastery committees, Buddhist followers, [words indistinct], Muslim compatriots, people throughout the country, and overseas compatriots, who have offered necessary contributions to the cause of building and defending national society in this most delicate stage.

Beloved comrades: Over the past 11 years, our entire party, Armed Forces, and people have surmounted all manner of difficulties and obstacles in safeguarding the revolutionary gains in all fields. Particularly since the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces, our forces themselves have assumed the tasks of defending the motherland and building our fledgling regime. Our Armed Forces on the battlefield have promoted their combat qualities and capabilities and become self-reliant in fighting the enemies in order to defend the border, maintain security and order in society, and protect the people's peaceful life.

To date, despite their painstaking efforts and all kinds of tricks aimed at controlling and turning some parts of our important territory into their bridgeheads and bases in order to expand the civil war, the enemies can never reverse the revolutionary situation. The enemies' large- or small-scale activities have been denounced, condemned, and defeated by our people one after the other. The result has more clearly reflected the patriotism and confidence in the new regime of our cadres, combatants, and people all over the country. With their physical and moral strengths and material support, our people have assisted in successfully promoting the work of serving the frontline battlefield in keeping with the appeal by our party, government, and front. It is significantly important that our fronts at all levels have paid great attention to motivating the movement of assisting and supporting the frontline and rear battlefields. Our Buddhist monks, senior citizens, monastery committees, Buddhist followers, [words indistinct], and Muslim compatriots have willingly fulfilled this commitment. Those activities have tremendously encouraged our Armed Forces and enhanced the close ties between the frontline and rear battlefields.

As for the implementation of economic reforms and a number economic policies adopted by the party and government, our people have created a new character toward providing the possibility of carrying out the policy of restoring and expanding our economy. The policies, which give our people encouragement, have vigorously promoted production, handicraft work, and artistic works, contributing to developing the new image of our nation as having steady and remarkable progress. As we are able to self-reliantly carry out the tasks of rebuilding and defending the motherland, the State of Cambodia's image has been elevated both inside the country and in the international arena.

The national and international public opinion and the peace- and justice-loving forces worldwide have supported and assisted us. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Government's recent shift in policy toward the Cambodian problem by withdrawing its recognition from the Cambodian tripartite coalition in the United Nations and the tendency within the U.S. political milieux to call for a termination of aid to the Cambodian noncommunist groups, have clearly reflected our integrity and just struggle.

However, along with the decisive struggle against a cruel and savage war created by the enemies, our party, government, and front are always striving to draw up any formula with a view toward ending the bloodshed and suffering of our people. For this reason, we would like to appeal to the Cambodians of the other side, including the Khmer Rouge, to respect and implement the Tokyo joint communique, and to all parties concerned to earnestly create favorable conditions for making the joint communique effective so that it can be used as a basis for formulating a common solution to the Cambodian problem. This is to bring an end to the Cambodian people's suffering as quickly as possible and to restore a durable peace to Cambodia, thereby promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

We would like to enthusiastically welcome and pay high esteem to the U.S. Government for its newly announced stance toward the Cambodian problem by withdrawing support for Pol Pot and removing recognition of the tripartite coalition's seat in the United Nations. This constitutes a positive step of vital importance toward avoiding a deadlock in the pursuit of a settlement of the Cambodian problem. Along with this, we wish to acclaim to international public opinion, which has supported and assisted in the quest for measures and a formula for preventing the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to Cambodia.

Beloved comrades: At present, the tasks of rebuilding and defending the motherland and protecting the social gains are becoming more ardent. They require the entire party, Armed Forces, and people to firmly unite within the front rank under the leadership of our party in order to advance along the path that we have already defined. As such, all members of the KUFNCD National Council and fronts at all levels should intensify their activities more than ever before so as to achieve our ultimate objective. The matters of priority are:

In ideological and political works, continued efforts should be displayed to activate the political leadership and ideological works that will strengthen the inner political circle with a view toward increasing the people's confidence in our new regime.

Education and propaganda works should be carried out to make the masses and people clearly aware of the social gains and achievements scored by the revolution during... [two-minute break in transmission] ...from returning.

People should be brought up to date on a great many difficulties and obstacles that the country is still facing so they will be ready to jointly tackle the problems, both internal and external, with all-out efforts. Attention should be paid to avoiding passive phenomena within the rank of our cadres which would affect the people's confidence in the party leadership and the new regime. The people's hatred for the genocidal regime's crimes should be stirred up by making them remain alert to the enemies' maneuvers, in particular to the enemies' cruel and barbarous crimes and their recent plots against our motherland and people.

We should heighten our revolutionary sensitivity and be resolved to crush all the maneuvers and foul plays of the enemies. This is aimed at contributing to bringing to fruition the tasks of rebuilding and defending the country, maintaining security and order in society, and protecting the people's property and life. It is imperative to prevent the return of the genocidal regime at all costs.

On the work of expanding and consolidating the localities, the front should zealously enhance its leadership role more than ever before; all cadres should closely link themselves with the local people because the localities are the focal point where the people gather and all the revolutionary movements are activated. The front cadres should have the ability to use the strength of the people at each locality according to their level of education and skills so as to encourage them to become involved in the cause of rebuilding and defending the motherland and firmly guarding the grass-roots localities.

On the work concerning intellectuals, we should continue to focus our attention on creating favorable conditions for the intellectuals and providing them with sufficient avenues for enthusiastically using their skills and experience in rebuilding and defending the country. The intellectuals' worthwhile and appropriate ideas and experiences should be taken into full consideration. It is important to zealously enhance and preserve the stance of solidarity of the intellectuals within our front.

On the work dealing with Buddhism, continued attention should be paid to properly implementing the policy toward religions and Buddhism with the aim of eliminating uncertain and suspicious feelings about our new regime's position. Efforts should be focused on the administration of monasteries, Buddhist monks, and the heirarchic structure of the monkhood so as to effectively serve the interest of the people and Buddhist followers. The observance of the Buddhist religion's disciplines should be reviewed and improved upon in keeping with the party and government's concern and proclamation that Buddhism is a state religion. As for religious property such as lands, buildings, [word indistinct], assembly halls, and so on, the party and government have already had adequate policy and regulations [words indistinct]. The only thing that needs to be done now is to implement them. As such, the front should cooperate with all parties concerned in putting them into correct and appropriate practice according to the concrete situation of each locality.

As for the Muslim religion of the minority ethnic compatriots, attention should also be paid to observing its preaching and disciplines according to [words indistinct] which is the basis of the religion. Solidarity should be preserved among the Muslim devotees by avoiding such things as discrimination between the old and new sects, which will cause conflict and affect solidarity. Besides, [word indistinct] and Muslim believers should link religious observance with their duties as a citizen. They should be ready to offer effective assistance to the frontline and rear battlefields.

With regard to Christianity, whose adherents are allowed by our party, government, and front to build churches for worship according to that religion's tradition, should consider and organize management and conduct religious propaganda activities in conformity with specified regulations.

On the policy toward minority ethnic groups, efforts should be carried out according to the concrete situation and new changes. It is important to improve political, ideological, and cultural knowledge, skills, and the living conditions of the ethnic compatriots according to the progressive development of society.

In respect to the Cambodian compatriots living abroad, they should strive to gather and urge our overseas compatriots, who are real nationalists and patriots, to side with the motherland by becoming involved in serving the cause of national construction with their moral and material assistance.

I do believe that when all the Buddhist monks return to their own monasteries and all the participants to their respective localities, they will use their understanding of the substance raised at the congress to carry out their tasks according to the concrete local situation in order to achieve remarkable success in response to our motherland's new objective.

May all the Buddhist monks, the presidium, and the participants of the congress enjoy the best of health, vigorous physical strength, and brilliant wisdom in jointly implementing the tasks of bringing the motherland and people to ultimate victory.

Sar Kheng Briefs Front Members at Congress

BK1508060590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] On the morning of 13 August at the office of the National Assembly, Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chef de cabinet of the party Central Committee, and chairman of the Central Organization Commission, attended a meeting to disseminate the resolutions adopted by the fifth party Central Committee's 11th plenum among front members attending the fourth congress of the fourth front National Council.

On this occasion, Comrade Sar Kheng outlined and highly appreciated the success of the fifth party Central Committee's 11th plenum—which highlighted the military and security situation in the first half of 1990, the ideological policy, and the assessment of the country's general situation—and pointed out the development and progress achieved by our State of Cambodia in the socioeconomic, cultural, health, and foreign affairs sectors. Comrade Sar Kheng also pointed out a number of shortcomings which the State of Cambodia's party and state should quickly check and improve upon. These measures should aim at perfecting party resolutions and state laws to defend localities, build real forces, and further consolidate the Armed Forces to ensure the safety of all people in order to implement well the slogans: Everything for the battlefield; Everything for increasing the people's confidence in our new regime.

Finally, Comrade Sar Kheng called on front members to carry out well their tasks and to unite in order to absolutely prevent the return to power in Cambodia of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Paper Urges Attention to Life-Style Meetings

BK0908114990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 8 Aug 90

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Increase Attention to Safeguarding the Significance of Life-style Meetings of the Grass-Roots Party Chapters"; date not given]

[Text] Life-style meetings of the party organizations are one of our party's necessary conditions. Safeguarding the significance of these life-style meetings is of vital importance to expanding the influence and effectiveness of the leadership of all party organizations and, in particular, the leadership of the grass-roots party organizations.

Over the past 11 years, the party-building work at all levels and, specifically, the work carried out by the grass-roots party organizations, have made praiseworthy progress. To date, almost all communes and wards have been under the leadership of the party chapters, and a number of communes have gone so far as to establish their own grass-roots party committees. Party chapters, like grass-roots party committees, have been continuously consolidated, causing the party organizations to undergo significant transformations, to moderately understand their roles and duties, to closely link themselves to the revolutionary movements of the masses and people, and to gradually bolster the influence of the party leadership among people from all walks of life.

A great many grass-roots party organizations have effectively promoted the core leading role of the party in the local people's revolutionary movements. This has been achieved thanks to the grass-roots party chapters' and grass-roots party committees' scrupulous attention to the schedule and significance of the life-style party meetings.

Nevertheless, party chapters in some communes and wards have not yet conducted life-style meetings successfully. At times, a life-style meeting was delayed or called off and its agenda was not well planned, causing the meeting to lose some of its essential substance.

A number of localities have, now and then, failed to set targets for future implementation, to distribute tasks, and to control the assignments adequately. This has caused the state's and party's policies and high level authorities' decisions and directives to fail. These are policies and decisions which all localities should actively implement in conformity with their respective situation. The consolidation of the procedure and substance of grass-roots party chapters' life-style meetings is necessary to increase the effectiveness of the leadership and implementation of the grass-roots party organizations' role and task. It is also a core issue in promoting and strengthening all revolutionary movements.

That being the case, all grass-roots party chapters in communes and wards should highly increase their attention to the life-style meetings. At present, they should strive to ensure that the meetings are precisely held as scheduled. All party members should unambiguously realize that the life-style party meeting is their duty and part of their livelihood. It is imperative that they attend all life-style meetings and avoid using excuses and preoccupations to miss meetings, unless of course they have other extremely important commitments.

Prior to the life-style meetings, secretaries, deputy secretaries, and party chapter committees should discuss and agree on the significance of these meetings. During the meetings, they should insist on unanimous decisions from the participants.

In the past, the Central Organization Commission issued directives on the role, duty, and procedure of the life-style meeting of the party chapters at commune and ward levels. However, in order to conform with the capability and knowledge of the grass-roots party members and also to bolster their possibilities, all party chapters should understand the significance of life-style party meetings by paying great attention to the five important works—the ideological education work, military and security work, economic and livelihood work, party member education work, and the work of building up the real revolutionary force. With the five works, weak and strong points should be correctly assessed, exterior and interior factors should be clearly determined, and concrete targets and measures should be concretely established for future implementation. Along with this, each party member should be assigned to a well-defined task, and implementation and achievement of that task should be subject to strict controls.

Party committees in provinces, municipalities, districts, wards, and provincial towns should widely disseminate to all party chapters in villages and wards the previous directives of the Central Organization Commission, in particular its special guidance dated 28 March 1990 on the significance of the life-style meeting to be conducted by the party chapters in communes and wards. The party committees should efficiently promote the implementation of the grass-roots party chapters' life-style meeting process. Provincial organization commissions should cooperate with provincial party-building commissions and district party committees in paying regular visits and in providing guidance on the grass-roots party chapters' life-style meeting. They should do their best to make sure that grass-roots party chapters everywhere properly ensure their leading role and effectively promote all revolutionary movements of the local people. By all means, this is to contribute to bringing the implementation of our party's sacred tasks to success.

CPAF General Staff Deputy Chief Dies 12 Aug

BK1308073690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Aug 90

["Announcement by Ministry of National Defense"]

[Text] Cadres and combatants of the Defense Ministry are very sad that Comrade Major General Prum Thav, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], passed away at 0730 on the morning of 12 August due to illness.

Religious rites are being held at the house of the deceased, adjacent to the northern gate of the Chamka Mon state palace.

This announcement is an invitation to all friends of the deceased. The funeral ceremony will be held on the morning of 15 August.

Kompong Thom Police Uncover 'Enemy Elements'

BK1008073190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Summary] A meeting to sum up police work in Kompong Thom Province in the first half of 1990 was held on 6 and 7 August. Presiding over the meeting were Major General Chieng Am, secretary of the province's party committee [title as heard], and Major Aom Chamraeun, chief of the provincial police.

A report read by Deputy Police Chief Captain Chu Sam-an stated that in the first half of 1990 the provincial police, in cooperation with local armed forces and militiamen, launched 205 operations, killing 391 enemy soldiers and wounding 178 others; 19 were taken prisoner, and 38 assorted weapons, 1,045 rounds of ammunition, 29 mines, and 14 hand grenades were seized. The provincial police force also independently launched 78 operations, killing 26 and wounding 16 enemy soldiers; two others were taken prisoner and 16 weapons were seized. In the same period 101 misled persons returned with 127 weapons.

The report says the provincial police also uncovered 23 groups of enemy elements totaling 159 persons; 36 surrendered, and 12 were taken prisoner. Another 370 hidden enemy elements, who provided information and supplies, hid, and sold weapons to the enemies, were also uncovered; 171 of these were persuaded to surrender with six weapons.

Project To Expand Phnom Penh Housing Reported

BK1008072990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Summary] A new project will be implemented in Phnom Penh city. There are currently up to a million people, or about 120,000 families, living in Phnom Penh, while there are only 400,000 old and new houses. Before 1975 1.5 million people lived in Phnom Penh in 122,000 houses. Due to a shortage of houses caused by war and destruction under the Pol Pot regime, squatters have set up shelters in 11,517 large buildings in the city. This is the source of many negative social phenomena.

To solve this problem, the municipal urban and construction department has set up three development zones in the districts of Russei Keo and Phnom Penh Thmei and an area opposite the Stoeng Meanchey radio station [southwest suburb of Phnom Penh]. Forty five percent of housing in these three zones has been completed.

According to the municipal urban and construction department, once these three zones are completed, three new ones will be set up with some assistance from international organizations. These will be located at Krang Pongro, Tumnop Kap Srov, and Samraong Kraom village [west and northwest of Phnom Penh].

Heng Samrin Greets Vo Chi Cong on Birthday

BK1108015090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Recently, Comrade Heng Samrin, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, sent a message to Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the SRV Council of State, greeting him on his 77th birthday. The message noted:

I would like to extend best wishes to you for good health, long life, and success in all your tasks. May the traditional bonds of friendship and solidarity and the all-around cooperation between our two fraternal countries further strengthen and last forever in the interests of our two peoples and for peace in this region and in the world.

Son Sann Endorses Alatas' Initiative on Meeting

BK1508062690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia [NGC], expressed his unconditional support for the initiative of Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, as co-chairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia, to reconvene a meeting among all the Cambodian parties.

In a letter dated 10 August to Ali Alatas, the excellency stated that in his capacity as president of the KPNLF, he was very pleased to uphold the Indonesian foreign minister's initiative which was identical to his recent unsuccessful proposal to Hun Sen. He said the KPNLF concurred with the other partners of the NGC in endorsing ASEAN's recently announced statement on Cambodia as well as its 11-year-old initiative which wishes to see a comprehensive solution reached for an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia free from foreign interference and massacre.

Currently, His Excellency Son Sann is staying in Paris, France. It is hoped that the inter-Cambodian meeting will take place in Jakarta in early September prior to the annual UN General Assembly.

Khieu Samphan Leaves Senegal for Guinea 10 Aug

BK1208044090 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Following his successful visit to the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs, left the country on 10 August and flew to Conakry city of the Republic of Guinea.

His Excellency Seydina Oumar Sy, Senegalese foreign minister; Her Excellency Mrs. Claude Diallo, Senegalese ambassador to the United Nations, as well as several Senegalese officials and a number of ambassadors of friendly countries in Dakar saw His Excellency Khieu Samphan off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Activities in Guinea Reported

BK1508035590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] On 10 August, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs, arrived in Conakry, capital of the Republic of Guinea, for a friendly visit.

Upon his arrival at the airport in Conakry, His Excellency Khieu Samphan was most warmly welcomed by His Excellency Jean Traore, Guinean foreign minister, and many high-ranking officials of the Guinea Foreign Ministry.

On 11 August, His Excellency Vice President Khieu Samphan and His Excellency Foreign Minister Jean Traore most warmly met for talks at the Guinean Foreign Ministry. His Excellency Vice President Khieu Samphan briefed His Excellency Guinean Foreign Minister Traore on the development and situation in Cambodia. His Excellency Guinean Foreign Minister Traore reaffirmed the unchanging stance of the Guinean Government to continue supporting the Cambodian people's struggle until there is a comprehensive and political solution to the Cambodian problem and until the Cambodian people have the right to decide their destiny themselves without any interference from the outside.

On 13 August, His Excellency Vice President Khieu Samphan and delegation left Conakry for Lome to pay a visit to Togo.

VOK Reports Grenade Attack in Phnom Penh

BK1208072890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] According to the General Staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation Army [KPNLA], in early August, the KPNLA soldiers [words indistinct] the 7th Military Region jointly attacked three positions of the

Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers in Kamnap, Chhuk, and Bos Sbov villages, Sereisaophoan District, Battambang Province. After two hours of fighting, the KPNLA combatants killed seven Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers, wounded nine, and captured 12 others. They also seized an AK-59, 14 AK-49's, two RPD's, an M-60, a large quantity of ammunition and war materiel, and 15 sacks of rice.

At the same time, the KPNLA General Staff reported that recently, the KPNLA sabotage group in Phnom Penh threw a grenade into an area at the junction of Routes 3 and 4 near Pochentong Airport. A policeman in the Heng Samrin regime was wounded in the explosion.

Indonesia

UN Peacekeeping Force for Iran, Iraq Dispatched

BK1108081190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0730 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug. 11 (OANA-ANTARA)—The general chief of staff of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI), Vice Admiral Sudibyo Raharjo, saw off Garuda IX military contingent sent to the Middle East at a ceremony held here Friday [10 August].

As the third batch of the Garuda contingent sent to the region, this group consists of 15 ABRI officers with levels ranging from captain to lieutenant colonel. They are posted in the Middle East to join the UN Iran-Iraq military observer group for one year to participate in the maintenance of peace between Iran and Iraq.

Saudi Special Envoy To Ask for Military Aid

BK1508075590 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0658 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 15 (ANTARA)—Saudi Arabia will soon ask for a military assistance from Indonesia in an effort to defend the kingdom from a possible Iraqi offensive, Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia Ta'lat Amin Hamdi stated here Wednesday.

For this purpose, he went on, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz has sent Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz to convey the Saudi's request to the Indonesian Government. According to him, the Saudi special envoy is expected here on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning following his trip to Kuala Lumpur to convey a similar request to the Malaysian Government.

The presence of Indonesian forces, together with other forces from the Islamic world, is badly needed, mainly to protect two Moslem holy cities, Mecca and Medina, since forces from the western nations are deployed far from both cities, the ambassador said. He also assured that once the Iraqi forces were withdrawn from Kuwait and Kuwaiti-Saudi border areas, the foreign forces would be requested to leave Saudi Arabia.

Besides Indonesia and Malaysia, King Fahd had also sent his emissaries to several Ismalic countries, like Pakistan and Bangladesh, to ask for their military assistances to Saudi Arabia. However, Ambassador Hamdi didn't say whether the Saudi Government had contacted the Indonesian Government before sending its special envoy to Jakarta.

The ambassador further denied Iraqi accusation that Mecca and Medina were under siege, since the two holy cities are in the hands of reliable forces who want to defend their religion and the Holy Koran. Therefore, the presence of forces from the Islamic world in Saudi Arabia will prove that the forces are the guardians of Islam, he added.

Answering a question on whether the presence of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia was very urgent, the Saudi envoy said that his country badly needed military assistance from friendly nations to defend its territorial integrity. But if Iraqi forces have been withdrawn from Kuwait and the Kuwaiti-Saudi border areas, the foreign forces will be requested to leave Saudi, he insisted.

He further disclosed that Saudi had only 140,000 military personnel. We have only a small military force if compared with that of Iraq with its one million forces. Such a condition has forced us to ask for military assistance from its friendly nations, he added.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will always abide by and stick to all international treaties, such as the Arab League Charter, the Charter of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and the United Nations Charter, he concluded.

Alatas, ROK Minister Discuss Cooperation

BK1308103190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0959 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—South Korea and the six non-communist countries grouped in the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to promote cooperation projects in the three fields of trade, investment and tourism, South Korea's Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Ki-chu said here Monday.

After paying a courtesy call on Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Yi said the details of the joint projects were being discussed in the current (August 13-14) meeting of the Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (JSCC) of South Korea and ASEAN. The meeting was the first to be organized following the agreement on JSCC signed by ASEAN and South Korea in Seoul last year.

During the courtesy call, Yi and Alatas discussed cooperation between South Korea and ASEAN and had talks on ways to increase the cooperation projects, Yi, who was accompanied by Agus Tarmizi, co-chairman of the JSCC, said. According to Tarmizi, South Korea had warmly welcomed proposals put forward by ASEAN to develop the joint projects. Yi came here with proposals to immediately materialize the projects, he said.

Meanwhile, Yi further said that cooperation between ASEAN and his country had made rapid progress as reflected by the annual increase of 40 percent in trade between the two countries since 1985. ASEAN-South Korea trade value reached eight trillion U.S. dollars last year and at the same year, Korea invested 170 million U.S. dollars in ASEAN countries.

In the first semester of this year, our investment in ASEAN countries was valued at more than 200 million U.S.dollars, Yi said.

Troops in Aceh 'Doubled' Since Mid-July

BK1508111590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 15 Aug 90

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Aug 15 (AFP)—Indonesia has over the past month doubled its military presence in the westernmost Province of Aceh in a bid to quash an armed rebellion against the central government, military sources here said.

The uprising on the northern tip of the island of Sumatra, about 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) northwest of here, is also directed against Javanese interests, the sources said. They said 6,000 troops were stationed this week in the strongly Moslem province, compared to 3,000 in mid-July.

An airborne battallion of 600 men was parachuted Sunday into the districts of northern and eastern Aceh and Pidie, the center of the three-month old rebellion that has claimed more than 100 lives, they said.

A few days earlier, 300 marines and about 100 men from a mobile brigade based in Surabaya, eastern Java, were sent to Sigli, the capital of Pidie where, officials say, the uprising is the work of "about 30 criminals at the most."

The airborne batallion headquartered in Bogor, 60 kilometres (38 miles) south of here, is commanded by Colonel Prabowo, who gained prominence fighting against the East Timor Liberation Front, Fretilin, at the other end of the Indonesian archipelago. Col. Prabowo is also President Suharto's son-in-law.

The troop buildup and the latest military operations came days before Indonesia's 45th independence day celebrations, which the rebels have asked the local population to boycott.

Tracts signed by the Aceh Sumatra National Liberation Front (ASNLF) over the past few weeks urge all inhabitants of the province, including schoolchildren and teachers, to stay away from Friday's celebrations.

They were the latest in a series of flyers distributed by the ASNFL, which last month claimed responsibility for a number of anti-government operations, including the assassinations of military men and Javanese living in Aceh.

Military sources said that early last week, the GPK—the local acronym for "security-disturbing movements," as secessionists throughout Indonesia are officially called—shot two people dead in a camp for Javanese emigrants. The army arrested 39 locals the next day, and their fate remained unknown one week later.

On August 8, two civilians were shot dead in their home in a village in Pidie as they watched television, and the Army shot and killed a suspected militant Saturday in the center of Banda Aceh, the sources said.

Diplomats in Jakarta say many embassies have asked their nationals to evacuate Aceh, in particular the region of Lhokseumawe, one of Indonesia's two major oil and natural gas producing regions.

The diplomats explained that ASNFL militants had extended their threats against government-employed Indonesians to "foreigners working for the Indonesian Government and for well-known Javanese firms."

Opposition Calls for Political Reforms

BK1408125090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Indonesian opposition Tuesday called for an end to 25 years of "unconstitutional emergency measures" and for political reforms including direct parliamentary elections and a time limit on the presidential mandate.

The appeal came in an open letter sent to the legislature Tuesday by representatives of the country's three major political forces—the nationalists, Moslems and military—and endorsed by 58 leading opposition figures.

The open letter, which denounced the use of emergency measures in the past quarter century as "unconstitutional," was signed by former nationalist leader Sanusi Harjadinata, former Premier and Moslem leader Mohammad Natsir and retired General Abdul H. Nasution, former speaker of the People's Consultative Assembly.

The letter bore the signatures of 58 members of an informal opposition body known as the Group of 50, including retired generals and former government ministers from political parties dissolved in 1972. They called for the presidential mandate to be limited to two five-year periods.

President Suharto, who came to power in the wake of an abortive 1965 communist coup, was elected president for the first time in 1968 and has been re-elected virtually unopposed since.

The letter by Mr. Natsir, Mr. Sanusi and Mr. Nasution, addressed to their "brothers-in-arms," was released two days before Mr. Suharto was to speak to the nation on the 45th anniversary of Indonesian independence. Analysts here saw in it a response to a call by 21 religious scholars in May for Mr. Suharto to be re-elected in 1993.

The Indonesian state, the three opposition leaders said, is today "far from the targets set when independence was proclaimed." The Parliament, they said, comprises "only 40 per cent of elected members, while 30 per cent are named by the president and the remaining 30 per cent are also the result of nominations."

"Since it was founded (in 1967 by Mr. Suharto), the new order has never functioned as a vehicle of the people's sovereignty," they said.

Their action, they said, was not "anti-constitutional," but sought, on the contrary, "verbatim application" of the Constitution, as well as reforms within its framework.

The country's three political parties—the military-backed Golkar, the Nationalist Party and the Moslem Party, the only ones allowed since 1972—"cannot truly represent popular power as stipulated by the Constitution," they said.

"The unconstitutional emergency measures in effect throughout this time" prevented political normalization, they said. "We believe there can be no economic democracy in the absence of political democracy...(both of which) are part of the Constitution."

Mr. Natsir, Mr. Sanusi, and Mr. Nasution said they believed "everyone must take things a bit more seriously and must ponder these problems."

"Laws violating the principles of democracy should be rewritten within the constitutional framework," added the Group of 50 in their letter. "Reforms must be everyone's responsibility."

There was no immediate official response to the letters. The authorities here usually ignore statements by the Group of 50, describing them as "disgruntled has-beens who represent no one but themselves," and the Indonesian media are not allowed to use their statements.

Minister Denies Banks in Financial Distress

BK0908121790 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Finance Minister J. B. Sumarlin said in Jakarta this afternoon that private banks in the country are in a stable condition, dismissing rumors that there are several private banks which are undergoing financial problems. Minister Sumarlin called on the people in general and the depositors in particular not to be upset by such malicious rumors.

Minister Sumarlin told newsmen that all along several private banks have been using the discount window of Bank Indonesia. According to the minister, this is normal practice.

[Begin Sumarlin recording] To date, there is not one bank which is having financial problems, and generally all of them are in stable condition. The discount window of Bank Indonesia is a normal facility, normal meaning that it is ordinarily used by the banking sector when the banks are facing short-term liquidity shortages. These shortages occured because of the mismatch between the banks' resources and obligations. Discount window facilities are normally used everywhere when there is a mismatch. Therefore, there is nothing unusual if a bank uses the discount facilities at Bank Indonesia. The discount facility available at Bank Indonesia is meant to be utilized. [end recording]

Minister Sumarlin reiterated that the government will always lend support to well-managed private banks. Bank Indonesia, which is the central bank, will always supervise and monitor every development occurring in the banking sector.

Citing Bank Danamon as one particular private bank, Minister Sumarlin said the rumor that the bank is facing a problem is not true. He said the condition of Bank Danamon is stable and the allegation that its manager has fled abroad is not true.

Laos

Culture Ministry Delegation Leaves for PRC

BK1508041990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Yesterday morning, a delegation of the Information and Culture Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic left for a visit to the PRC at an invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Culture. The Lao delegation was headed by Bounteng Vongsai, acting minister of information and culture.

During the visit, the Lao delegation will hold talks with the Chinese side, and will sign an agreement on cultural cooperation, in particular on planned exchanges in the mass communications field between the two countries for 1990-91. The Lao delegation will stay in the PRC for 10 days.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives IMF Representative

BK1108153690 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, received a court call from Ismail, director of the International Monetary Fund for Southeast Asian countries, in Vientiane yesterday evening.

During the meeting, the host and his guest exchanged views on cooperation between the international organization and the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. Phoun Sipaseut informed the IMF representative about the LPDR's policy of broadening cooperation with foreign countries, which gradually links production with the market. Ismail expressed his interest in and praised Laos' economic development now proceeding on the right path and in line with the country's restructuring efforts.

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador Meets Leaders

BK1008040790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Yesterday morning Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received a courtesy call from Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad Mustafa, outgoing ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Laos, whose office is situated in Hanoi of the SRV and who has completed his three-year tenure as ambassador to Laos.

On the afternoon of the same day, the outgoing Egyptian ambassador also took leave of Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. Later this morning Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, also received a farewell call from outgoing Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad Mustafa.

Message Sent to DPRK Friendship Association

BK1008101290 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Vientiane, August 10 (KPL)—Maisouk Saisompheng, president of the Lao-Korean Friendship Association, on August 10 sent a message of greetings to Yi Chan-yong, president of the Korean-Lao Friendship Association, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the DPR of Korea (August 15, 1945-1990).

The message expressed warm congratulations and best wishes to the Korea-Lao friendship association and, through it, to all the fraternal Korean people.

The message highlighted the achievement scored during the past 45 years by the fraternal Korean people under the clearsighted leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by General Secretary Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, in the socialist construction in the north as well as in the struggle for national reunification by peaceful means.

"The Lao people," said the message, "closely follow the situation in the Korean peninsula and hope that success will be gained in socialist construction in the North and the efforts for national reunification by peaceful means would promote development and prosperity for the fraternal Korean people and speedy reunification by peaceful means, thus contributing to the defence of peace and stability in Asia and the world."

The message expressed hope that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two associations of friendship would be further developed, following the recent visit of the delegation by Korea-Laos friendship association to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], thus meeting the interests of both peoples.

Romanian President Thanks Phoumi Vongvichit

BK1208093990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit recently received a thank-you telegram from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The telegram says:

I wish to express my gratitude to you for your congratulations message on the occasion of my appointment as president of Romania. I firmly believe that existing good and delightful relations between our two countries and peoples will be further strengthened. I extend my best regards and wish you good health and the friendly Lao people prosperity and peace.

Leaders Attend Draft Constitution Caucus Review

BK1208094790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] The party and administrative committees of Vientiane municipality this morning organized a meeting to review the results of discussions on the draft constitution. Also present as guests of honor at the meeting were Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and Sisavat Keobounphan, secretary of the municipal party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality.

In his capacity as chairman of the committee in charge of propagating the draft constitution in the municipality, Dr. Siho Bannavong, vice chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, reported to the meeting that the the campaign for discussion on the draft constitution launched in Vientiane municipality from early June to the end of July was successful as expected. Over 8,500 cadres and 124,000 people participated in the study and discussions on the draft constitution. It was noticeable that during the campaign the people's right to mastery was truly promoted as cadres, soldiers, policemen, and multiethnic people dare to exercise their democratic right to express their opinions and criticisms. Dr. Siho Bannavong said participants in the discussions on the draft constitution are happy that the Lao People's Democratic Republic will promulgate a constitution to be used as the country's legal foundation and observed by every citizen. However, discussions conducted hastily in some localities failed to touch on every detail of the draft constitution.

SPA Chairman Addresses Media Workers Meeting

BK1208100490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 40th founding anniversary of PASASON newspaper, 13 August 1950 to 13 August 1990, and the 30th founding anniversary of the national radio station, 13 August 1960 to 13 August 1990, Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, this morning addressed the meeting of journalists, reporters of PASASON newspaper and the national radio, photographers, and media people from other news agencies in Vientiane municipality.

Nouhak Phoumsavan recalled the heroic traditions of Lao propaganda cadres and mass media and their relentless contribution to the national democratic revolution for national liberation in the past and to the propagation of the party's and state's policies and lines among the multiethnic people. [Words indistinct] check the line of thinking against the new regime, promote the expansion of the democratic system, and support the Lao people's struggle for justice in the new era. He added that up to now our government still encounters difficulties in its efforts to provide good working conditions and to improve the livelihood of cadres in mass media circles. [Words indistinct] and appreciates the industrious efforts made by media people in doing their duties in the current difficult situation.

Nouhak Phoumsavan [words indistinct] newspapers to serve the task of restructuring in Laos. In this connection, he stressed that the newspaper is a sharp [words indistinct] and mouthpiece of the party to propagate the party's general policies and lines. Attention must be paid to training and educating cadres and party members so they will be truly imbued with the party's lines and the directions and movements of all sectors [words indistinct] in promoting democratic rights and organizing the implementation of all tasks in the country. In particular during the period of restructuring, newspapers and propaganda agencies must encourage cadres and people to get rid of all negative phenomenon and pay attention [words indistinct] the social construction. Newspapers [words indistinct] the party's political functions for the time being.

On same the morning, Nouhak Phoumsavan visited various technical installations of the national radio and television stations and witnessed their technical difficulties and shortcomings as well as competency.

Sali Vongkhamsao Reports on Financial Work

Installment Three, Part Two

BK1308073590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Third installment of part two of "Report on Financial Work During the Past 15 Years and New Direction and Primary Functions of Financial Work," presented by Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, at the first nationwide financial conference held in Vientiane on 21 June—read by announcer; for second installment of part two, see page 26 of the 14 August East Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Text] Revenue from currency printing. We must try our utmost to limit the currency printing for the purpose of generating the revenue to attain a budgetary balance. The important point is that we must draw the exact border line on the currency printing between one area that secures the revenue for necessary expenditure of the state and the other area that increases loans for the State Bank. If the country is not facing a budgetary deficit, the State Bank must always be ready to provide cash for every budgetary expenditure. In fact, this is a duty of the State Bank.

B. The State Budget Expenditure:

First of all, we must understand that the state budget expenditure must support the roles and duties of the state in administrating the country and keeping the state apparatuses function with high efficiency. Therefore, we must handle the budget expenditure in accordance with the following principles:

We must give priority to expenditure items stemming from the functioning of the state apparatuses, national defense, maintenance of peace and order in the country, and cultural and social works. At the same time, we must finance economic undertakings through the use of bank credits. The State Bank is responsible for this budget expenditure item. In connection with the investment in infrastructural construction, the state must promulgate decrees to regulate the management and utilization of loans and assistance from foreign countries and lay down the economic and technical requirements for infrastructural construction and regulations as well as principles governing the establishment of new enterprises and the inspection of construction undertakings. The state must provide annual budgets for administrative and technical works, national defense, and maintenance of public security.

The state will set expenditure targets for all sectors, such as the annual budgetary allocations for salary payment, the expenditure of administrative agencies and organizations which must include stationery items, vehicles [words indistinct]. These regulations must be implemented uniformly nationwide to ensure equality and justice for the state employees and cadres working in different parts of the country. The state must promulgate the regulations governing the infrastructural construction and the management of public savings nationwide so as to help the state and local administrations secure budgetary capabilities to cope with any unexpected incident and work out remedial measures in time.

Clandestine Radio Urges Iraqi Withdrawal

BK1308100890 (Clandestine) Radio Station of the Government for Liberation of the Lao Nation in Lao 0100 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Summary] According to foreign news reports, Iraq is a country in the Middle East that exports millions of barrels of crude oil per year, generating billions of dollars in income for the country. It has a strong army of (?hundreds of thousands of troops) equipped with a large quantity of weapons and war materials supplied by the Soviet Union.

Displeased with the Kuwaiti leaders, whom he accused of stealing crude oil from Iraqi territory, and failing to achieve any fruitful outcome from the Iraqi-Kuwaiti negotiation held in Saudi Arabia, "Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent the Iraq Armed Forces to invade and occupy Kuwait on 1 August 1990." As of today, the Iraqi Armed Forces are still occupying the Kuwaiti territory despite the fact that the major powers in the world are condemning the invasion and demanding that Iraqi forces be withdrawn from Kuwait.

"The United States, under the leadership of President George Bush, has instructed that all Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets [in the United States] be seized and frozen. Many other countries have also followed suit while the United Nations organization has adopted a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. But instead of complying with the UN decision, Iraq has set up a puppet government in Kuwait under its control."

"We, the fighters struggling for democracy under the leadership of the government for the liberation of the Lao nation, would like to extend our sympathy to the Kuwaiti people. On behalf of the government for the liberation of the Lao nation, we call on President Saddam Husayn to immediately and unconditionally withdraw the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. We also share the pain of the fraternal Kuwaiti people who have faced a similar fate with us."

Laos is a small country and we have a (?bullying) neighbor—Vietnam—which has invaded our country and installed a puppet government headed by odious Kaysone to rule the country for 15 years." We hope that small countries like Laos, Kuwait, and many other countries will receive justice in the near future.

Clandestine Radio Airs Poem on Yellow Rain

BK1408100990 (Clandestine) Radio Station of the Government for Liberation of the Lao Nation in Lao 0100 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Poem: "Yellow Rain Is Killing the Lao People"]

[Text] Yellow rain is killing the Lao people;
Brothers and sisters, yellow rain is the vicious weapon the Vietnamese use to kill the Lao people;
(MiG-23 B-17) is used as the vehicle to bombard the country indiscriminately;
Houses, people, cattle, buffalo, or horses it never spares;
The red Vietnamese do not regard the Lao people as their kin;
They, therefore, launch suppression operations with permission from Kaysone;
[Passage indistinct] are sleepless;
Everybody knows [words indistinct];
Ironically, Kaysone lies by claiming that it is a good thing;
[Passage indistinct];
The whole world is [words indistinct] great leader Gorbachev;
Praising him as a clever [words indistinct];
Kaysone is left muted on the throne of power;
He boasts about the promulagtion of laws and constitution;
[Passage indistinct].

Philippines

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Preventive Measures Undertaken

HK1308031990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 13 Aug 90

[By Tanny Rodriguez from "Malacanang Info Service"—in English]

[Text] Over the week, the government has taken steps to prevent or at least minimize the adverse effects the Iraq-Kuwait conflict in the Middle East will bring the country. President Aquino has held emergency consultation meetings with Congress leaders to forge a unified response to the problem.

In a statement, Malacanang identified the following measures immediately undertaken in the light of the increasingly critical Middle East situation. These include the firming-up of a new term contract with Iran for the supply of 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and replacement scheduled August crude oil listings from Kuwait the same value of 720,000 barrels from Iran. [sentence as heard]

The president has also ordered the adoption of energy conservation measures with the guidelines set to be released today. The government is also studying high-level negotiation with possible sources of additional crude oil to upset any shortage in domestic oil supply requirement. The president has already relayed the request for the supply of an additional 20,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran and is expected to send Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to Iran to discuss the matter with Iranian officials.

The president has also sent Labor Secretary Ruben Torres to Saudi Arabia to monitor the prices and ensure the safety of Filipino workers in the Middle East. Last Friday, the president expressed concern over the labor secretary's report that three Filipinos had been killed and three Filipinas raped in Kuwait.

Back on the local scene, the government is also studying the possibility of imposing price control on basic commodities in the light of the situation. The president also called for unity and sacrifice of the Filipinos at this critical time and gave the assurance that all possible measures will be taken to cushion the adverse effects of the crisis.

Manglapus on Middle East Workers

HK1308052590 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus announced that the Government of Iraq is allowing Filipinos to leave Iraq and Kuwait. The announcement was based on information furnished by the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Department of Foreign Affairs [as heard] by the Iraqi Ambassador to the Philippines (al-Sumayda).

At the same time, Secretary Manglapus reiterated the Philippine position with regard to a resolution on the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Manglapus said the Philippines has no plan of participating in any military action in the Middle East and that its paramount concern is the safety and welfare of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos working in that region.

In a conversation with Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manuel Yan, Iraqi Ambassador (Sumayda) declared that only Filipinos working for the Government of Iraq would be required to remain in Iraq. Those engaged in private companies will be given exit permits.

In his announcement, Manglapus also revealed that Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Pacifico Castro has reported from his post in Amman that he has received assurances from the Government of Jordan that Filipinos evacuating from Iraq will be given safe passage through Jordanian territory.

Embassy in Kuwait Closed

HK1408114990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Report by Rey Arquiza from the Department of Foreign Affairs—live or recorded—italicized portions in English]

[Text] The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has lost its diplomatic status in accordance with an order by the Iraqi government to close down all foreign diplomatic missions in Kuwait. This was announced today by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Manuel Yan.

The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has lost its diplomatuic status, Yan said. Foreign diplomatic missions in Kuwait must secure new accreditation from Baghdad, Yan added. In relation to this, Yan ordered the return to the country of Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Mauyag Tamano and all members of the embassy staff because there no longer was an embassy in that country. Ambassador Tamano is currently out of Kuwait because he was not at his post when the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait erupted. Yan further explained that the embassy in Kuwait no longer had diplomatic status and if it continues to operate, it would only function as a private office.

Government May Ask for UN Help

HK1508073590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0530 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Report by Tanny Rodriguez from Malacanang—live]

[Text] The government may ask the United Nations Security Council for assistance so as to protect the welfare of thousands of Filipino workers caught in the war between Iraq and Kuwait in the Middle East. It will be recalled that the United Nations Security Council recently condemned the invasion by Iraq of Kuwait, and UN member nations agreed to impose a trade, oil and arms embargo against Iraq until it leaves Kuwait.

In an ambush interview with Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus this morning after a meeting with President Aquino, Manglapus suggested to the president that the government may use Article 50 of the United Nations Charter which stipulates that a country may ask for advice or help from the United Nations, more so, in cases where the country is severely affected by a resolution that the UN had just passed. Here is part of the interview by Malacanang newsmen with Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus on other additional details.

[Begin recording in English] [Manglapus] I reported to the president also on the situation in Kuwait and I informed her that the Philippines is moving to avail itself of that article that I mentioned a few days ago in the charter of the United Nations which permits us to seek recourse to the Security Council if the resolution that it had passed is causing difficulty for the Philippines. I understand that there are other countries, similarly situated and they're doing the same—countries whose nationals, by the thousands, are also working in Kuwait.

[Reporter] Suppose [words indistinct] exemption to the UN Security Council?

[Manglapus] Well, it's not necessarily an exemption. We're seeking the help of the Security Council in getting us assistance and in helping our Filipinos who are still in Kuwait at this time. They're by the tens of thousands and we want assistance in contacting them, in giving them all that's possible inside, including food, perhaps, and medical aid because we now understand that they're going to our embassies and flocking to our embassies for assistance and our embassy now in Kuwait, which has been ordered closed by the Iraqi Government, is in need of help in providing this assistance to our Filipinos.

[Reporter] Reports, sir, of the foreign governments have not really quote, unquote, said that most of their nationals in those countries that were caught by the conflict are hostages but are sequestered [as heard]. In what way can the United Nations help up in their repatriation process.

[Manglapus] Well, we have organized to work without, [changes thought] we're already doing it. As you know Filipinos are arriving here already, more and more of them because our evacuation plans are now in effect. But there are thousands more who need our help and that is where we need the help of the United Nations.

[Reporter] What particular article of the United Nations...

[Manglapus, interrupts] Article 50. Article 50 says that if a resolution of the Security Council should be causing difficulties to a member country, then that member country may appeal to the security council for help. [end recording]

Meanwhile, on the forthcoming talks between the U.S. and Philippine panels regarding the retention of the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines, Manglapus said that there has been no definite date set for the talks. Foreign Affairs Secretary Manglapus clarified that as stipulated in the agreement between the Philippines and the U.S., the U.S. cannot use their military facilities in the country for any of their combat operations against any country.

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] Sir, the bases talks, is it September 14?

[Manglapus] No. No, the date has not been fixed.

[Reporter] Sir, your own set of talks with Senator Lugar, I mean...

[Manglapus, interrupts] Yes. I informed him...

[Reporter, interrupts] Sir, does it indicate that [changes thought] it seems the Americans may use it, or are they using it already considering the fact that Diego Garcia, before you...

[Manglapus, interrupts] Diego is what?

[Reporter] The staging point.

[Manglapus] There is no indication that they intend to use it because they have not come to us for consultation on it which as provided in our agreement that there should be consultation before they use it.

[Reporter] Sir, uh, Subic is more strategic to the U.S. naval forces and before they reach Diego Garcia, which is one of the major staging points, they still have to pass through the Philippines. I mean some carrier forces are now on their way to the Indian Ocean and they might use the Subic Bay. Would there be any previous clearance or information on the [words indistinct]

[Manglapus] The provision is that they should not use our bases for combat operations. Combat operations. Refuelling is not combat. [end recording]

Intelligence Groups Say Situation Under Control

HK1308093790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 13 Aug 90

[By Cesar Chavez]

[Text] The Reform the Armed Forces Movement and the Young Officers Union have no capability of launching a new coup d'etat despite the increasing crisis in the country. This was the assurance given by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency [NICA], the Armed Forces Intelligence Service, and the deputy chief of staff for intelligence during a closed-door meeting by the Senate Intelligence Oversight Committee headed by Senator Mamintal Tamano. Although Senator Tamano did not state the full details of the briefing by the three intelligence agencies, he said that the military is in control of the situation and that there is no indication yet that the rebel soldiers have organized the launching of a new coup. In his brief statement, Tamano said:

[Begin Tamano recording in English—in progress]...is under control. There is no indication that there is any group that can muster a coup for the present. And we are satisfied that we have a good meeting with the intelligence people of our government...[end recording]

Among those invited by the Senate Oversight Intelligence Committee were NICA Director General Roman Gavino Jr., ISAFP [Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief Colonel Carlos Tanega, and AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Brigadier General Alfredo Filler.

Meanwhile, the Senate will also summon bank officials, who allegedly refused to accept currencies brought home by Middle East overseas workers, through Senate Resolution No. 911. Senator Romulo also called on Filipino workers to report to his committee the banks who reject or refuse to accept Kuwaiti dinar.

In his privilege speech, Senator Tito Guingona proposed the formation of a joint executive-legislative crisis committee in order to have a centralized government organization which will tackle the present crises the country is facing. Among those steps which the committee can take is to study and propose the suspension of foreign debt repayment, government to government transaction in relation to oil purchase through the Philippine National Oil Company, and to prevent the importation of non-vital goods like apples and other fruits.

Bombs Blast Government, Private-Sector Offices

OW1508044490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Manila, Aug. 15 KYODO—Suspected antigovernment elements blasted two government offices and a textile company in Manila Tuesday night, police said Wednesday. The blasts brought to seven the number of bombings to hit the metropolis since last Thursday. Nobody has been injured in the blasts and damage to property was minimal.

Makati Police Chief Avelino Jacob said in a radio interview that he suspects "those who are against the Government of President Corazon Aquino" are responsible for the bombings.

The first blast took place at 10:20 PM damaging the ground floor offices of the five-story Board of Investments Building in the financial district of Makati. This was followed by another blast at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Building, about 100 meters away from the first explosion. The third occurred before midnight at Solid Mills Inc., in the southern Manila suburb of Muntinlupa, destroying the firm's building facade, police said.

A preliminary military report said that the blasts were caused by C-4 plastic explosives, normally used by the military for demolition. The explosive devices were similar to those used in six bombings which took place almost simultaneously in early July in the metropolis.

Another bomb was defused by police in Tondo District after it was hurled by an unidentified men in front of a rice warehouse owned by an influential Chinese businessman.

On August 9, a grenade exploded outside the Philtrust Bank, near the headquarters of Manila's Western Police District. This was followed by another blast at 9:30 AM the following day shortly before gunmen ambushed and robbed a bank armored car along the capital's Roxas Boulevard.

Two other explosions were reported at a Protestant temple on Saturday and a strike-bound school on Monday. Investigators have still to determine whether the bombings are the work of a single group.

Doors to Peace Talks With Rebels Still 'Open'

HK1308084190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Aug 90 p 7

[By Carla Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. [General] Renato de Villa yesterday said the government has not made any permanent rejection of talks with the New People's Army.

"All offers will be explored thoroughly to find solution to the problem," De Villa said in answer to a question by former Bacolod Bishop Antonio Fortich on what he thought President Aquino would think about plans for a peace dialog with rebels in Negros. Fortich was referring to a peace committee created by Negros Occidental Gov. [Governor] Daniel Lacson Jr. in which the prelate was named peace moderator or the person tasked with contacting the rebels for possible talks.

De Villa was in Bacolod for the renaming of the PC [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police]-INP headquarters here to Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr., the country's defense secretary from 1945 to 1946. While in the city, De Villa paid a courtesy call on Fortich who celebrated his 77th birthday yesterday.

"The doors are open, the government has never changed its policy on anyone who wants to return to the folds of the law," De Villa said. "As far as we are concerned, the ball is in the rebels' hands," he added, pointing out that the main stumbling block is the insurgents' refusal to give up its armed struggle. "If we can end the conflict in Negros, it can become the model for the rest of the country," De Villa said.

Fortich said negotiations for the release of Peace Corps volunteer worker Timothy Swanson and Japanese aid worker Fumio Mizuno in which he was a principal player has provided him with some lessons on how to hold talks with the rebels. Fortich also said that the walls of communism in Eastern Europe have crumbled and talks with the rebels in Negros must commence so that Filipinos can all unite for the good of the country.

De Villa, in his speech, stressed the need for unity among all sectors for the sake of development.

At a press conference later, he said the whole of Negros island is a top priority for the AFP's [Armed Forces of the Philippines] counter-insurgency campaign. "We intend to stay here and finish the job. We are not going to lower our level of operations here or commitment of forces in this island. we will pursue with greater momentum our counterinsurgency campaign."

Separatists Assured of Continued ICO Support

HK1308031490 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 90 p 1, 9

[By Tress M. Reyes]

[Text] The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has pledged continued support for the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and urged the separatist group and the Philippine government to renew talks for a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem "under the auspices of the OIC."

A resolution passed by the 19th international conference of foreign ministers of the OIC last July 31 to Aug. 3 said the group "rendered homage to the leaders of the MNLF to encourage and persuade both the MNLF and the Philippine government to continue the dialogue and peace negotiation under the auspices of the OIC." It also reaffirmed "its readiness to continue to offer every form of assistance, humanitarian, mateiral, financial and political to the Bangsa Moro Army and the MNLF to enable them to attain their legitimate aspirations."

The resolution effectively rejected President Aquino's request that the Mindanao problem be removed from the OIC agenda because it was a purely domestic matter.

The request was made in a letter sent in August last year to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, host of the recent conference.

Mrs. Aquino said in the letter that the Mindanao problem should be removed from the OIC agenda because a "genuine" law for regional autonomy for Muslim Mindanao had been passed by Congress, which "embodied the letter and spirit of the Tripoli Agreement." She added Muslim leaders who would represent the interest of the Muslim community had been elected in the government of the autonomous region.

The Aquino government had sent three teams of Muslim leaders in the Middle East to follow up on the President's request and to lobby against the MNLF bid to become an OIC member.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Manuel Yan said that the resolution was passed despite the interruption of the OIC meeting by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"The foreign ministers met in a hotel (after abruptly closing the OIC meeting) to talk about the Iran-Kuwait conflict...The resolution was not taken up by the foreign ministers, but it was approved by the 19th international conference of foreign ministers," Yan explained. He said the resolution was milder than those passed in previous years because it did not use strong words like "condemn," "deplore" and "strongly urged."

In its final communique last year, the OIC expressed "deep regrets" that the Aquino goverment had failed to implement the Tripoli Agreement. It noted MNLF chairman Nur Misuari's statement urging the OIC to consider granting MNLF membership to the OIC as part of renewed efforts to force the Aquino government to honor the Tripoli Agreement.

Banks Report 20 Percent Increase in Resources

HK1308031890 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 13 Aug 90 p 25

[Text] The combined resources of the country's 31 operating commercial banks grew 20.1 percent in the first half of the year, from P382.26 billion to P459.08 billion. Total deposits climbed higher at 21.53 percent, from P242.83 billion to P295.12 billion while growth in terms of loans was placed at 15.64 percent, from P168.53 billion to P194.90 billion.

The industry's total net worth also posted an impressive gain of 25.11 percent, from P37.48 billion to P46.89 billion.

Ten universal banks occupied the top slots in terms of assets. They were the state-owned Philippine National Bank (PNB): the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the country's oldest; the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank); Far East and Trust Co. (FEBTC); Citibank Philippine branch; Philippine Commercial International Bank (PCIB); the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB); the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC); the government-owned Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP); and Allied Banking Corp.

Together, the 10 top universal accounted for 71 percent of the entire commercial banking system's total resources of P459.08 billion in the first semester.

The PNB ranked first in deposit liabilities of P43.73 billion, 22 percent more than its last year's first semester level of P35.89 billion.

BPI emerged as the biggest private universal bank in terms of deposits which were placed at P41.78 billion at the end of the semester, up by a higher 27 percent from the comparative figure of P32.79 billion.

Together, BPI and QPNB garnered 29 percent of the deposit market during the period in review.

In terms of loans, BPI slightly outshone PNB as the privately-owned bank made accommodations of P21.89 billion in the first six months of the year, compared to the state bank's P21.88 billion. Both BPI and PNB shared an identical 11 percent slice of the market pie.

The other top banks in terms of deposits and their rankings were Metrobank, third, P32.16 billion; FEBTC, fourth, P29.65 billion, PCI-Bank, fifth, P15.75 billion; UCPB, sixth, P15.04 billion; RCBC, seventh, P12.84 billion; Citi-bank, eight, P11.22 billion; Equitable Banking Corp., ninth, P9.49 billion; and Allied bank, 10th, P8.48 billion.

Thailand

Further Reports, Comments on Kuwait, Iraq

28 Workers Return

BK1408154590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The first group of 28 Thai workers from Kuwait, 22 men and six women, arrived at the Bangkok airport today aboard Thai Airways International flight TG504. The workers look tired. After spending two hours clearing customs, they proceeded to meet Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan at Government House. The prime minister asked them about their difficulties during Iraq's military invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila granted an interview to reporters, saying that the government must use a budget of 12 million baht to evacuate the Thai workers from Iraq and Kuwait [as heard].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How many days are needed to evacuate about 10,000 workers from the two countries?
[Sitthi] I have talked to Thai Airways' Wira Kitchathon. About 20 flights are needed to bring the 7,000 workers back, and one flight will cost about 12 million. We still do not have sufficient planes.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it possible that Iraq will hold the Thai workers as hostages?
[Sitthi] Iraq has said that it would release them. [end recording]

Phonthep Techaphaibun, deputy spokesman attached to the Prime Minister's Office, reported that the cabinet meeting today approved a special budget to help evacuate the Thai workers.

[Begin Phonthep recording] Today, the Cabinet approved a budget of 95 million baht as proposed by the Interior Ministry to help evacuate the Thai workers. There are now about 7,000 Thai workers in Kuwait and about 5,000 in Iraq. [end recording]

Report From Saudi Arabia

BK1408160190 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Our correspondent reported from Saudi Arabia last night that the situation there was still normal. Tensions were reported only at certain areas close to the northeastern border where about 30,000 Thai workers are stranded. All factories in the area are closed as their managing staff have been evacuated for fear of possible fighting. As a result, Thai workers there did not have work. The Labor Department has prepared military trucks to evacuate Thai workers in the event of crisis. The workers who are still left in Kuwait will be evacuated along the border with Saudi Arabia and Jordan. In case of a war, the ASEAN countries will join together in efforts to get their people out of the area through the Red Sea and via Egypt.

According to the latest report from our correspondent, Chaiyut Chanthranuphatthana, Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan and his party visited the Thai workers in Dubayy, the United Arab Emirates, in order to prepare an evacuation. Reportedly, there are about 20 Thai workers at two factories in Dubayy. The workers are not frightened by the event because they are far from the border area and can be immediately evacuated. Meanwhile, Thai workers in other countries are preparing for the evacuation.

Thai labor officials in Riyadh told workers to be alert and ready around the clock.

The Thai deputy foreign minister will leave for Saudi Arabia where he will proceed to Dhahran and Jeddah where a large number of Thai workers are stranded. There will be an immediate evacuation of Thai workers from those spots if possible.

According to the latest report sent this evening from our correspondent, a number of the 140 Thai workers who fled from Kuwait are now in Saudi Arabia waiting for flights to return home. Thai Airways International is trying to arrange flights for them. A large number of Thai workers are still in Kuwait. They cannot leave the country now as Kuwait has declared its border closed.

Workers Said Allowed To Leave

BK1508012590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Iraq has told Thai officials in Baghdad that it will allow more than 10,000 Thai workers to leave Iraq and Kuwait, a diplomatic source said yesterday. The Iraq decision came after several meetings between Thai Ambassador to Iraq, Choei Sutrong, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The source said the Iraqi Government had shown satisfaction with the Thai Government's position concerning the Gulf situation.

There are about 7,000 Thai workers in Kuwait and 3,000 in Iraq.

The source said the Iraqi Government did not consider Thailand a party in the conflict.

Thai officials informed Iraqi officials that the current food shortage in Kuwait would affect thousands of Thai workers and that they needed to be evacuated, the source said.

The nod from the Iraq Government is likely to prompt the Thai Government to carry out a mass evacuation soon, the source added.

The Cabinet yesterday approved 95 million baht for the operations to help Thai workers in Kuwait and Iraq as requested by the Labour Ministry.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that the current food shortage in Kuwait and Iraq was of great concern because it would directly affect the Thai workers. He instructed officials concerned to send food and other necessities with the flights that are to pick up Thai workers from the Middle East. Gen Chatchai also said Thai workers in Kuwait and Iraq who did not want to return home could be transferred to work in Iran and Saudi Arabia because the Government has already contacted the two countries for jobs.

The Prime Minister met the 28 Thai workers who returned to Thailand yesterday morning at Government House. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor on Oil

BK1408031990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Aug 90 p 17

[Text] Thailand can absorb soaring oil prices, according to Bank of Thailand Governor Chawalit Thanachanan, but it needs to implement new measures to conserve energy consumption.

Mr Chawalit said yesterday he did not expect any major change in monetary policy despite possibly higher inflationary pressure triggered by increased oil prices. He said two policies unlikely to change were the maintenance of high lending rates and credit controls on non-productive sectors.

Mr Chawalit said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 meant the country would have to spend an extra US$400-650 million a year in oil bills, but this was small compared to Thailand's reserves of $13,000 million. Thailand imports about 130 million barrels of oil each year, so a price rise of $1 a barrel would result in additional payments of $130 million a year.

The local oil price is based on an import price of $18 a barrel. Following the invasion of Kuwait, oil prices rose to $30 a barrel before falling to $25-26. The oil price is now expected to stabilise at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries-established price of $21 a barrel. This means Thailand may have to pay $3 a barrel more or about $390 million extra a year.

Mr Chawalit said people should not panic or speculate too much on the level of the crude price rise in world markets as several analysts believe there are adequate reserves in other oil producing countries. He said the impact of rising oil prices on production costs and inflation would be offset by the Government's retail oil price fixing policy. The Government may be willing to sacrifice revenue earnings from its excise tax on oil to stabilise domestic prices, he said. Mr Chawalit said he expected the National Petroleum Policy Committee to announce its position on the issue next week.

Despite the present stability, he suggested that other measures be devised such as finding ways to conserve energy and boost exports to offset problems affecting the trade and current accounts balances.

Mr Chawalit earlier reportedly warned that Thailand may find it difficult avoiding economic damage stemming from the Gulf crisis as the local economy is linked closely to the global economy and is heavily dependent on export earnings.

Commerce Minister on Trade

WA1508130090 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
3 Aug 90 pp 1,22

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Minister of Commerce Subin Pinkhayan stated that trade between Thailand and the two countries [Iraq and Kuwait] would probably not come to an immediate halt because of long-term contracts. [passage omitted]

'Right Choice' Viewed

BK1408030390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "World Unity in the Middle East"]

[Text] The decision to confront Iraqi force with strength is the right choice at the right time. Iraq's President Saddam Husayn, having played with fire for a week, now risks burning his fingers. His options are clear: Get out of Kuwait and rejoin the civilised world, or fight that world. Unfortunately, Mr Husayn's capacity for self-destruction may be large enough to go down battling in the most destructive manner. Thus, if events in and around Iraq continue to deteriorate, it could well become necessary to oppose Mr Husayn with maximum power used to maximum advantage. The possbility of armed opposition to Iraq's naked aggression existed from the moment the first troops crossed the Kuwaiti frontier. Surprising as it is, the world today virtually has a single-minded Middle East policy.

The military forces in, around and on their way to Saudi Arabia show there is to be no backing down. United States paratroopers may have been the first soldiers to arrive at the front lines, but they show a determination not only of their own government, but of most of the world. Requested by the Saudis, sanctioned by nations as diverse as the Soviet Union and Britain, the Americans clearly hold a world-wide mandate. President Bush said they will "stand up for a principle" and few could argue with this.

The principle was clear twelve days ago. Iraqi troops crushed a small, non-threatening neighbour with tanks and guns. Since then, Iraq has ignored both warnings and attempts at mediation. On the contrary, this proved aggressor has built up its forces at the Saudi Arabian frontier, issued warlike statement after provocative statement and—in short—dared the world to act. The issue was so clear that the world acted. First, it called for a peaceful reversal of the Kuwait invasion. Then it imposed sanctions and an embargo on Iraq. Now, quite rightly determined to prevent more aggression, the world is demonstrating its resolve to meet force with military force.

President Saddam Husayn's response has been, from the start, combative. There is little doubt that this bully is capable of inflicting harm upon any opposition. For too long the world ignored his massive arms buildup, his acquisition of long-range missiles, his unhesitant ease at using poison gas against opponents—in short, his belligerence. The decision to draw a line over which Mr Husayn will not pass unopposed is, if anything, a decision delayed too long. Mr Husayn's ridiculous claims that he is the wronged party have finally been dismissed. While he has spoken of his Jihad, others believe such talk only exposes him as a blasphemer.

The first countries able to respond to the Saudi request for defensive help—the US, Britain, France, Australia, the Soviet Union and a number of Arab states themselves—should be joined in spirit if not body by the world. The moral case of Iraq's crushing of Kuwait is so obvious it cannot be denied. It is not too late for Saddam Husayn to climb down from his high horse and reverse his unintelligent decisions of recent days. To avoid war on the battlefield and a sanctions and embargo-ravaged economy, he need only return his soldiers to Iraq. By returning Kuwait to Kuwaitis and accepting still-outstanding offers of talks, Saddam Husayn can still avoid the damage he otherwise will suffer.

There comes a time, as history proves in so many instances, when the world must shout, "Enough" at a man like Saddam Husayn. If this proves insufficient, force is the only acceptable alternative. We hope the international military muscle being assembled behind the Saudi frontier does not need to fight. But the decision now is in Iraq's hands, specifically those of President Husayn. If he steps across the line the world has drawn, he will have to pay the consequences.

Coverage of Visit of PRC's Li Peng Continues

Cambodia 'Understanding' Cited

BK1508013590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday said Thailand and China had reached an understanding on the Cambodian conflict.

Speaking before attending the Cabinet meeting yesterday, General Chatchai said various issues of the Cambodian conflict had been worked out during his discussions with Chinese Premier Li Peng on Monday night. "Both sides have reached mutual understanding on all issues," he said.

Gen Chatchai said the Supreme National Council (SNC) had to be made up of all four Khmer factions with Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chairman. "There is no problem concerning the SNC's composition," he said, adding the United Nations would look after it as well as the International Control Mechanism (ICM).

Asked if the SNC would be formed before the UN General Assembly convenes next month, Gen Chatchai said: "I think it is possible because the sooner SNC is formed, the easier it is to secure a seat."

He said the issue still has to be discussed during a meeting between the four Khmer factions in Jakarta, which the Indonesian Foreign Ministry is trying to organise.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday said China confirms the principle reached by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He said the Chinese Premier did not raise the Tokyo meeting last June because the five Security Council members did not have any commitment on the results of the Tokyo meeting and also because all Khmer factions accepted the principle laid down by the five members.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi on the other hand thought the formation of the SNC before the UN General Assembly convenes next month still remains a major problem. He said the meeting in Jakarta has to be held to discuss the next step.

AFP Reports End of Tour

BK1408134890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Bangkok, August 14 (AFP)—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng left here for Beijing on Tuesday afternoon after talks with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan on the Cambodian crisis. The two men met Monday [13 August] evening.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Li went on a private sightseeing tour to a Buddhist pagoda, Thai Foreign Ministry officials said.

Thailand was the final stop on Mr. Li Peng's week-long tour of Southeast Asia, which also took him to Indonesia and Singapore. The trip was to strengthen China's diplomatic ties in the region and to help find a solution to the 11-year Cambodian war.

Dailies View 'Success'

BK1408153790

[Editorial Report] Three Bangkok-Chinese language dailies—XING XIAN RIBAO, ZHONG HUA RIBAO, and XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO—on 14 August carry two editorials and an article on PRC Premier Li Peng's visit to three ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand, and on Li Peng's talks with Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan on the Cambodian issue.

XING XIAN RIBAO's editorial on page 2, entitled "Li Peng's Mission of Visiting the Three ASEAN Countries Is Completely Successful," says that Chinese Premier Li Peng and his delegation will today [14 August] complete the tour of three ASEAN countries. Li Peng arrived in Bangkok from Singapore on the morning of 13 August to begin his two-day visit to Thailand. The editorial says that this is Li Peng's second visit to Thailand after assuming the premiership in April 1988. His previous visit to Thailand was in November 1988 only seven months after taking up the premiership. This shows the close friendly relations between the two nations.

The editorial says, "Last night, Li Peng and Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan held talks on the Cambodian problem, the Middle East situation, and Sino-Thai economic and trade relations. Li Peng also briefed the Thai authorities on results of his visits to Indonesia and Singapore." Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand are all ASEAN members. Indonesia officially established its diplomatic relations with China on 8 August. This is Premier Li Peng's biggest achievement during his first visit to Jakarta. The establishment of diplomatic ties between Singapore and China is expected to be realized soon.

The editorial concludes by saying that "Premier Li Peng's mission of visiting the three ASEAN countries has achieved complete success. This is praiseworthy because it is beneficial to the development of peace!"

ZHONG HUA RIBAO's editorial on page 5, entitled "Li Peng's Tour of Three ASEAN Countries Has Been a Complete Success," says that Li Peng and his large delegation arrived in Bangkok yesterday for a working visit. He will leave for home this afternoon. Before Thailand, Premier Li Peng visited Indonesia and Singapore. He discussed the Cambodian issue during his meetings with Indonesian President Suharto and with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. The editorial says that "ASEAN and China hold similar views on the Cambodian issue." Speaking to a XINHUA correspondent one day before Li Peng's visit to Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said that efforts will be made to seek a complete solution to the Cambodian problem. China and ASEAN have cooperated in various fields during the past 12 years. The results of this cooperation can help strengthen China's relations with ASEAN. Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai yesterday afternoon also held talks with Prime Minister Li Peng to exchange views on the Cambodian problem. Both shared similar views. Both hoped for an early political settlement of the problem to eliminate the unstable element of this region. This will benefit the economic development of ASEAN.

The editorial continues to say that "during Prime Minister Li Peng's visit to the three ASEAN countries, he discussed bilateral relations and further development of friendly cooperation. The main topic of discussion was the settlement of the Cambodian problem." It says that because the United States suddenly changed its stand last month by canceling its support and recognition of the tripartite resistance government, which causes complications to a comprehensive political settlement of the problem, China and ASEAN's joint stand on this issue can significantly contribute to settlement of the problem. Although Li Peng's visit to Thailand is short, only about 20 hours, the results of his talks with Prime Minister Chatchai will strengthen mutual understanding and bilateral friendly cooperation.

In conclusion, the editorial says that "ASEAN and China share almost identical views on the Cambodian issue but have different views on the Khmer Rouge. Lee Kuan Yew's interview with the XINHUA correspondent is worth paying attention to. He said: 'If China can persuade the Khmer Rouge to accept the UN resolution, allowing the Cambodian people to have a free election under UN supervision, ASEAN's confidence in China will be greatly strengthened.'"

XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO's article by He Yun on page 16, entitled "The Thai and Chinese Leaders Hold a Long Discussion on the Cambodian Problem," says that although Premier Li Peng's visit to Thailand is short, it is an important visit. The visit is aimed at seeking ways through the deadlocked Cambodian problem. In the last two years the Cambodian problem has become more complicated. China's and Thailand's views and stands on the Cambodian issue are not so identical as in the past. There are some differences, especially regarding their views over the Khmer Rouge's position. The article adds that "Prime Minister Chatchai's foreign policy advisors seem to ignore the existence of the Khmer Rouge. But, China insists that the Khmer Rouge must be included in the future government in Cambodia."

The article says that because a newspaper carried in advance a report on issues that Prime Minister Chatchai will raise during talks with Premier Li Peng, Premier Li Peng knew that Prime Minister Chatchai prepared to ask China to halt its military assistance to the Khmer Rouge. So, he initiatively told Prime Minister Chatchai that "China will continue to send its arms supply to the Khmer Rouge unless the Cambodian problem is completely resolved." This reaffirmation, in fact, is China's consistent stand after Vietnamese invasions of Cambodia. Thailand has always supported this Chinese stand.

However, although both sides cannot have identical views on the Khmer Rouge, the Chinese and Thai prime ministers have reached an important agreement after the talks yesterday and Li Peng's tour of three ASEAN nations—China and Thailand will jointly push for a meeting of the four Khmer factions in Jakarta at the end of this month. Prince Sihanouk will hold a meeting of the tripartite coalition government in Beijing between 21 and 22 August.

The article concludes by saying that "The meeting of the four factions in Jakarta at the end of this month will be a new hope for the settlement of the Cambodian problem. If the meeting is successful, there will a a ray of dawn for the Cambodian peace. But if there is still insistence on excluding the Khmer Rouge, it is not known how many more years the war will last."

Subin Discusses Yeutter Talks, U.S. Farm Bill

BK1508090090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Aug 90 p 26

[Text] Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan yesterday told US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter that Thailand was disappointed with the lack of progress in talks to liberalize agricultural trade and called on the Americans to take the lead in working for agreement.

According to his own account of his meeting with Yeutter, Subin said Thailand and other developing countries were prepared to support the United States in pressing for large reductions in farm supports and protection, one of the most controversial subjects in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. Subin cited the example of the US campaign to end the Japanese rice import ban. He said although Thailand would benefit from the opening of the Japanese market, Thailand is too small a country to be able to influence Japanese policy. The market opening could only be achieved through the economic power of the United States, he said.

Subin also asked the American agriculture secretary to remove from the new Farm Bill, currently going through Congress, passages in the 1985 law which accuse Thailand of subsidizing its rice production and sales.

Yeutter is said to have replied that the Americans were happy to take the lead, but the support of smaller nations was needed. He apparently did not respond to the request for the text of the Farm Bill to be changed, but is said to have assured Subin that the Americans have investigated and found that Thailand does not subsidize rice.

Thailand, a member of the 14-nation Cairns Group of agricultural exporters, has a position close to that of the United States in seeking an end to agricultural export subsidies, import barriers and domestic supports.

Spokesman: Army 'Not Aware' of Arms Smuggling

BK1408033390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Aug 90 p 2

[Excerpt] The Thai army is not aware of an alleged arms smuggling ring involving Thai and American military personnel which a US newspaper said shipped tonnes of ammunition and explosives to sell on the black market here, army spokesman Anuson Kritsanaserani said.

Anuson said yesterday the army had not received any reports on the illegal activities and therefore could neither confirm nor deny the report published in Sunday's edition of the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER. "I still don't have any information about that. But I understand that war weapons are generally subjected to the most stringent controls by the Thai as well as US military," the spokesman said. "Any member of the Thai military found involved in such illegal activities would be severely punished," Anuson said.

But the spokesman said he believed the arms smuggling ring, if there was one, must have involved exclusively American personnel.

He said Thai and American forces, which take part in a joint exercise on a yearly basis, had closely monitored the quantity and types of weapons brought into Thailand for that purpose. "Therefore, it would not be easy for anyone to steal them for reselling here," Anuson said.

He said he did not know what was the motive of the newspaper's informants.

The spokesman, however, did not say whether the army would set up an investigating committee to look into the alleged arms ring, but said the army would welcome any information that would shed light on the matter. [passage omitted]

More U.S. Aviation Talks Planned for 28-31 Aug

BK0608121990 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 6 Aug 90 p 14

[Text] Deputy Permanent Secretary for Communications Ministry Mahidon Chantharangkun, in his capacity as chairman of the committee in charge of Thai-U.S. aviation rights talks, said that a new round of Thai-U.S. aviation rights talks will be held from 28 to 31 August. Thailand is ready for the talks. It will raise issues concerning an equal number of flights and the fifth freedom. At present, Thailand is at a big disadvantage to the United States. For example, the United States has more flights than Thailand and has no flight restrictions, while Thailand has fewer flights and has flight restrictions. Thailand will propose that both countries have an equal number of flights and that Thailand be able fly to other destinations in the United States. The United States has limited Thailand's flights to Seattle and Dallas via Tokyo no more than four times a week.

Mahidon said that the new round of talks will be the seventh. The previous six rounds of talks, held between 1983 and 1989, failed to reach any agreement on issues concerning the fifth freedom and an equal number of flights. The two countries have canceled their aviation agreement, which will be effective on 3 November, 1990. If any agreement cannot be reached before 3 November, it means the United States and Thailand will not be able to fly to each other's country. However, it is expected that there will be some relaxation for flying via other countries.

U.S. Reportedly Seeks Change

BK1508093190 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 14 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] According to Rungrot Siprasoetsuk, deputy director of the Civil Aviation Department and a member of the committee negotiating aviation rights with the United States, the United States is playing to pressure the Thai Government to change the composition of the Thai committee or the direction of the negotiations. The United States is alleging that the Thai committee, headed by Mahidon Chantharangsu, deputy permanent secretary for communications, has contradicted Thai government policy and that this would jeopardize Thai tourism and exports if the aviation rights were to be rescinded.

Rungrot says: "The United States wants to change the composition of the committee, particularly Mahidon who heads it. Regardless of this, the committee will have to follow the policy of the government board led by Permanent Secretary Siphum Sukkhanet." Rungrot says the U.S. action is unfair to Thailand because negotiations have not ended. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for 29-31 August. Any desired change should be brought up during the negotiations, and distorted information not leaked to the public deliberately. To date, Thailand has never slandered the United States.

Rungrot says there is a wide gap between Thai and U.S. policies. The U.S. policy wants an unlimited number of flights to Thailand, while Thailand wants a control on them. It will be difficult to compromise between the two. Neither side can be blamed, because each side wants to protect its interests.

Mahidon had earlier said the fact that the United States wants to change the committee's composition shows that the Thai committee is firm in its stand and not ready to bend to the U.S. wish. It is unthinkable for one side to demand the opposition to change the battlefield commander when it cannot defeat them. Mahidon said: They want to change my committee because we are unyielding.

Draft Agreement on Investment Signed With Laos

BK1408111190 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] According to a report from the Foreign Ministry, Thailand and Laos on 10 August in Bangkok signed a draft agreement on investment promotion. Boun-on Soutthichak, secretary to the Lao Ministry of Trade, was the head of the Lao delegation which met with the Thai delegation at the Foreign Ministry on 8 August.

Under the draft agreement, both countries will encourage investment by their respective people in each other's country, and profits from the investment will be allowed to be sent back home freely. The governments in both countries guarantee to immediately compensate foreign investors if their enterprises are taken over by the government in the other country.

According to the source, the agreement will be valid for 10 years after signing and can be renewed if neither party gives notification 12 months in advance to dissolve it. It is believed that the Foreign Ministry will forward the draft agreement to the cabinet on 21 August for acknowledgement.

Border Ambushes by Burmese Resistance Reported

BK1408150790 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] According to a report from the Thai border in Mae Sot District, Tak Province, resistance forces opposing the Burmese Government have started launching operations attacking the Burmese troops at various spots over the past week, after three months of waiting following the elections. Our correspondent reported that ambushes took place at Ban Walle in Tambon Phopphra, Phopphra District, in Tak Province. There was a report on clashes with heavy weapons opposite Thailand's Ban Wang Kha, Tambon Mae Charao, Mae Ramat District. A number of Thai villagers were reported hit and wounded by AKA rounds. The origin of the gunfire could not be identified.

There have also been reports of sabotage against the Burmese transport trucks on the Myawadi-Kawkareik road. Several Burmese people were reported killed and wounded when the trucks hit land mines. The incidents have brought trade transactions in the area to a standstill, especially in Mae Sot District. Goods from Thailand could not enter the Burmese border. Trucks were stranded along the Moei River. Vendors at the border said that there had been less and less Burmese traders coming to the area as they were afraid of sabotage on the roads.

The resistance has been demanding the transfer of power from the government to the political party which won in the elections. There is a general feeling that something serious is going to happen.

Announcement Removes Deputy Interior Minister

BK1508063890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Announcement on Removal of Minister:

Royal Signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously given permission to announce that, in connection with the announcement dated 4 August 1988 appointing General Chatchai Chunhawan as prime minister and the latest announcement dated 21 June 1990 appointing a new minister, the prime minister has now requested the removal of Deputy Interior Minister Santi Chaiwirattana from his post.

Empowered by Article 156 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, the king has approved the removal of Deputy Interior Minister Santi Chaiwirattana.

This order takes effect immediately.

Announced on 15 August 1990, the 45th year under the reign of the present king.
Countersigned by General Chatchai Chunhawan, Prime Minister.

Vietnam

Hanoi Notes Li Peng's Discussion of Relations

BK1408144890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng paid official visits to several Southeast Asian countries at a time when there were new developments in the settlment of the Cambodia issues and in the Sino-Vietnamese relations.

His first stopover was in Indonesia, of great importance to China because in this visit China and Indonesia officially renewed diplomatic relations. After two days in that country, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen signed the document on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries after a break of 23 years since 1967.

Speaking about this event, Premier Li Peng affirmed that the resumption of relations between China and Indonesia would play an (?important role) in maintaining peace and stability and promoting development in Asia and the Pacific. Public opinion in the region also hoped that good relations between China and Indonesia will bring about peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Leaving Indonesia, Premier Li Peng and his entourage visited Singapore. So far, China and Singapore have no official diplomatic relations. And China hoped that the visit would be a preparation for the establishment of their diplomatic relations. Therefore, one of the main topics in the talks between Premier Li Peng and his Singaporean counterpart Lee Kuan Yew was to be based on the normalization of Sino-Singaporean relations.

According to an AFP correspondent in Singapore, Premier Lee Kuan Yew said that if Beijing wants to have a long-term cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, China must persuade these countries to believe that China is ready to give up big-power status and treat these countries equally. However, before leaving Singapore, Premier Li Peng was convinced by the host country that China and Singapore should strengthen their friendship and this relationship with an enlarged agreement on important issues of peace, security, and economic development.

Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in Thailand on Monday morning [13 August] for a visit to this country. In the afternoon, he held talks with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan on international and regional issues. This is the second visit to Thailand of Li Peng as premier of China.

According to Western reports, the main purpose of Li Peng's visit to Thailand was to discuss the Cambodian issue. As soon as Premier Li Peng arrived in Bangkok, Prime Minsiter Chatchai Chunhawan urged China to stop its arms supply to the Khmer Rouge immediately.

It was notable that during his tour of Southeast Asia and in any country, Chinese Premier Li Peng dealt with Sino-Vietnamese relations. Especially in Singapore, while discussing the establishment of Sino-Singapore diplomatic relations, the Chinese leader said that China hopes to normalize relations with Vietnam and will discuss with the latter such problems as the dispute over the Truong Sa [Spratly] archipelago.

The world public welcomes the statement by the Chinese leader. In Vietnam, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi said: This is actually what Vietnam had many a time proposed and what Vietnam has always wished to see it materialized.

Vietnam as well as the public in Southeast Asia and the world are waiting for China to realize its statement by practicality.

AFP on 12-Point Plans on Cambodian Elections

BK1508102990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 15 (AFP)—Vietnam has outlined a series of 12 proposals on how elections should be held to end the Cambodian conflict, a diplomatic source here said Wednesday. The four Cambodian factions should agree to these proposals before elections can be held under an Australian peace plan of December 1989, the source said.

The Vietnamese proposals, which in part repeat the Australian plan, were submitted to U.S. officials when the two countries held their first direct talks on Cambodia in New York on July 6, he said.

Among the duties of the legislature elected in the poll will be to "adopt a constitution and form a government," according to the Hanoi proposals, the source said. Vietnam also wants measures to ensure that the vote is "truly free and fair." These should include "equal access" to Cambodian media, the banning of "all acts of violence" likely to influence the vote and a ban on carrying weapons in voting zones, the source said.

All voters, Hanoi says, should be registered to ensure that "refugees and others forced into exile because of the war" can cast their ballots.

Nearly 300,000 Cambodians who fled the 11-year war now live in refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. These camps are controlled by resistance factions opposed to the government Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh after it invaded the country in December 1978 and toppled the ruling Khmer Rouge. The resistance alliance is made up of the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and non-communist followers of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and ex-Premier Son Sann.

According to Hanoi's proposals, "the most favorable conditions must be created for foreigners who wish to observe the electoral campaign and the election"—a role slated for the United Nations under the Australian plan.

The proposals made by Canberra and widely accepted by the international community foresaw that the United Nations would supervise a cease-fire and handle part of the country's administration during the transition period in the run-up to the election.

Paper Criticizes ASEAN Stand on Cambodia

BK1208101690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 5 Aug 90

[From the press review for 5 August]

[Text] In its international section, the paper NHAN DAN today carries an article entitled "ASEAN and the Cambodian Issue." The article says in part:

The decisions reached by the ASEAN countries on the Cambodian issue at their conference have a negative connotation, causing great concern among public opinion. That is their apparently tolerant attitude toward and continued support for the Khmer Rouge-controlled Democratic Kampuchea [DK] at a time when more and more Western governments and broad segments of the people in various countries have condemned the Khmer Rouge for their genocidal crimes and asserted the need to prevent them from returning to power in Cambodia. Worse still, they have given high appreciation to those who seek to support the DK at the United Nations and other international forums.

People still remember the two key problems raised at JIM-1 and JIM-2 [first and second Jakarta Informal Meetings] in an effort to seek a political solution to the Cambodian issue, namely, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the prevention of the Khmer Rouge's return to power in that country. The first key problem has been solved. This has also been acknowledged by the U.S. secretary of state himself.

As far as the second key problem is concerned, almost all countries in the world are known to have emphasized the need to prevent, by all means, the return of the genocidal Khmer Rouge to power in Cambodia. The ASEAN countries, however, have acted otherwise and have not made any contribution to solving the second key problem as demanded by JIM. On the contrary, they only seek to prolong and cause difficulties for the process of seeking a correct political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Leadership Greets India on Independence Day

BK1408154290 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 14—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh, State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi today sent their warmest greetings to President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister V.P. Singh on the 43rd anniversary of India's Independence Day (August 15).

In their joint message, the Vietnamese leaders expressed the Vietnamese Government and people's joy at the major achievements recorded by the Indian people in their economic development and national defence. "We highly value India's positive activities for peace, stability and cooperation in Asia and the rest of the world, especially in the Non-Aligned Movement, and we are glad to see that India's role and prestige have constantly increased in the international arena", the message read.

The Vietnamese leaders expressed their hope that the traditional relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries would continue to develop more and more fruitfully for the two peoples' interests as well as for peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world over. They also wished the Indian people still greater achievements in building a unified, prosperous and modern India.

Army Paper Calls Contraband Problem 'Epidemic'

BK1408052990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Unattributed article in "recent" issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Smuggled Goods, a Dangerous Epidemic"]

[Summary] Since the southwestern and northern border gates were opened two years ago, smugglers have increased their activities dramatically. Taking advantage of loopholes in our border control over goods, smugglers have brought in even larger quantities of contraband. Many economic components have also engaged in smuggling activities.

"In reality, smuggling goods across the border has become an epidemic. Since early this year, the number of smuggling cases and the quantities of illegally imported goods have nearly trebled that in early 1989 and nearly quintupled that in 1988. Tens of thousands of people have become involved in the smuggling business. They are smuggling goods across the border day and night."

Due to their craving for fast profits, "many public organs, mass organizations, factories, and enterprises have found their way to the border to buy tax-free goods." They have further complicated the already perplexed cross-border smuggling situation.

While checking goods brought cross the border, "in August the customs and tarriff tax sector made hundreds of smuggle-related arrests involving many public organs, mass organizations, and factories."

The scourge of illegally imported goods is especially serious in the provinces of An Giang, Kien Giang, Long An, Tay Ninh, and Lang Son. There have been a wide range of smuggled goods in these provinces, ranging from shoes, cosmetics, ready-made clothes, radio cassettes, and video recorders, to motorcycles and automobiles.

At present, goods are being smuggled across the border by many very sophisticated means. In the southwestern border area, apart from the type of smuggling that is 100-percent under cover, there are also those types that are 30 and 50 percent under cover. If the goods they deal in are small, compact, and easy to conceal, they handle them 100 percent under cover. If the smuggled goods are large in quantity, cumbersome, and difficult to conceal, smugglers resort to various tricks. They buy off customs offials so they can pay only between 30 and 50 percent of the face value of the smuggled goods. In many cases, smugglers have used the same tarriff tax receipt several times. Because of cross-border smuggling, a huge quanity of goods imported from Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China has flooded our country by means of overland roads, rivers, sea routes, and railways.

"It is hard to precisely figure out the actual amount of contraband goods now in circulation in the market. Market surveys conducted in various major cities such as Hanoi, Haiphong, Quang Nam-Danang and Ho Chi

Minh City show that foreign contraband accounts for at least 60-65 percent of the total quantity of goods available on the market. This may bring temporary joy to some consumers but in the long run it is a danger because it will slowly kill domestic production. Illegally imported, tax-evaded goods have caused the loss of a large amount of tax money to the state, running at hundreds of billions of dong."

Officials at the industrial and trade tax office made known that "since early this year, tariffs have been evaded for 60 percent of the total goods imported into our country or have not been adequately paid as stipulated by the state." Among the illegally imported goods, there are pictures, radio cassettes and videotapes with decadent and reactionary contents and goods that are under import restriction. This has upset our domestic production plans and eroded our customs and traditions.

It is time for us to take urgent and drastic measures to "dispel the epidemic of contraband goods." To effectively fight contraband goods, it is necessary to come up with a uniform and rational import policy suitable to our specific situation while imposing a high tax on luxury goods and intensifying customs control efforts.

Council Bans Import of Foreign-Made Cigarettes

BK0908084290 Hanoi VNA in English 0733 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 9—The import, circulation, and consumption of foreign-made cigarettes in Vietnam is banned by an instruction signed on August 3 by the chairman of the Council of Ministers. The ban will take effect on October 1st, 1990.

The instruction notes that the unbridled import and circulation of foreign-made cigarettes has drained out the foreign exchange reserve, caused serious difficulties to cigarette production in the country, and created a habit of consumption not compatible with the general living standard of the population.

The violator will be fined and his cigarettes confiscated or burned. In serious cases, he will be punished under the penal code.

The ban will also apply to foreigners and overseas Vietnamese, including tourists, when entering Vietnam.

The diplomatic corps, foreign businessmen, and international organizations in Vietnam are not subject to this ban, provided they obtain permits of the Ministry of Trade. Any act of trading in foreign-made cigarettes by foreign organizations or individual foreigners shall be considered acts of smuggling.

All home-made cigarettes with labels in foreign languages or in Vietnamese initials must be licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

Council Signs Decision on Business Organizations

BK0808082190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] On 30 July the chairman of the Council of Ministers signed a decision allowing all administrative agencies, scientific research institutes, schools, social organizations, and mass associations to set up business organizations, practice various professions, and trade in goods that are not banned by the state. These include production, construction, transportation, home trade, import and export, tourism, and other service activities, especially service activities that can support production. This is aimed at increasing operational funds and helping to improve the livelihood of their personnel in addition to providing employment for cadres and personnel that have been laid off.

These economic organizations, which belong to the collective economies' various mass organizations and cadres and personnel of the administrative agencies, are not state-run economic organizations. They are placed under the jurisdiction of the people's committees at various levels and under the state management of the ministries in charge of various economic and technical sectors.

State adminstrative management organs are not allowed to engage in services that are directly related to their functions in terms of investigation, inspection, and adjudication. Economic organizations of the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Interior must [words indisinct]. Meanwhile, all assault youth units engaged in economic work must immediately implement Directive No. 259-CP issued on 12 July 1990 by the Council of Ministers.

All economic organizations must formulate their own operational plans and regulations [words indistinct], ensuring that they are fully capable of undertaking various business activities and professions. The type of business or profession, the place or area of operation, and the person responsible for each economic organization will be determined by various competent state management organs.

Nguyen Van Linh Book on Ho Chi Minh Published

BK1408102390 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 14—The "Su That" (Truth) Publishing House has published a book titled "Uncle Ho Lives Forever With the Country" by Nguyen Van Linh, secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The book, published on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and the National Day (Sept. 2), consists of the author's two speeches, one delivered at the international symposium on Ho Chi Minh held here on March 29-30, 1990 in celebration of the late Vietnamese president's birth centenary (May 19), and the other made on the May 18, 1990 ceremony here on his birth centenary.

The book deals with the late president's creativeness in applying Marxism-Leninism to Vietnam's reality as shown in working out correct revolutionary lines which led to the major turning-point in the history of the Vietnamese revolution and opened up an era of independence, freedom and socialism for the Vietnamese people.

The contents of the book also convey [a] message: "Although socialism is facing serious challenges, it will certainly overcome all difficulties to prevail. This trend is irreversible as it is the law of evolution and development of mankind."

Do Muoi Visits Island District of Phu Quoc

BK1208141790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, recently paid a working visit to the island district of Phu Quoc, Kien Giang Province. Accompanying the chairman on this visit was Comrade Nguyen Tan Dung, chairman of the provincial people's committee.

After he was briefed by the Kien Giang provincial people's committee chairman on the socioeconomic situation, national security and defense tasks, and party building work in the province and Phu Quoc District, Chairman Do Muoi heard Comrade Nguyen Minh Tam, secretary of the Phu Quoc District party committee, report on the implementation of the socioeconomic development and national construction and defense plans of the district, as well as on its orientations and tasks for the days ahead, which will be focused on agriculture, forestry, fishery, tourism, and the production of construction materials.

Chatting with leading and key cadres of Kien Giang Province and Phu Quoc District, Chairman Do Muoi commended the party organizations and people of the province and district for their great efforts and achievements in 1989. Regarding agriculture, last year Kien Giang attained an average annual per-capita grain production of 783 kilograms and caught 90,000 metric tons of fish and shrimp. Chairman Do Muoi expressed the hope that Kien Giang will successfully fulfill its plan for the exploitation of 100,000 metric tons of maritime products in 1990.

Taking the lead in pepper and cashew planting in the country, last year Kien Giang produced 1,000 metric tons of black pepper and 800 metric tons of cashew seeds and turned them into products for domestic consumption and export, thus deserving commendation. Kien Giang has also begun to step up the processing of maritime products. As a result, each year the province has been able to produce 10 million liters of fish sauce and nearly 500 metric tons of frozen shrimp. Last year Kien Giang attained an export value of $12 million.

Urging the comrade leaders of Kien Giang Province to pay attention to stepping up the processing of agricultural, forest, and maritime products, Chairman Do Muoi said: Efforts must be made to turn out end products and to gradually reduce and then put an end to the exportation of raw materials.

Touching on the construction material industry in the province, which is now expanding with effective results, Chairman Do Muoi stressed the need to further develop this industry, both in terms of quality and quantity, to meet the ever increasing demands of the people in the province as well in the entire Mekong River Delta region.

Hoang Lien Son Committee Views Future Tasks

BK1108032090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Hoang Lien Son Provincial party committee held a conference recently to review work during the first half of 1990 and discuss measures to carry out tasks for the second half of the year.

Noting weaknesses in leadership during the past period, the provincial party committee mapped out a program of action to carry out key tasks of the province which include efforts to:

—satisfactorily supervise the convening of congresses of party organizations at various echelons;
—continue to renovate the party leadership over various aspects of the social life; and
—launch a campaign to urge party members to implement party statutes and to struggle against corruption in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decision No. 240 on purifying the contingent of party members.

The conference also urged sectors concerned to provide better guidance to basic party organizations to satisfactorily implement party resolution no. 10 on agriculture, strive to resolve difficulties in industrial and handicraft production and in circulation of goods, and motivate the people to participate in maintaining social order and safety, especially in the central highlands region and border area where many ethnic minority groups are living.

Food Ministry Reviews Work in First Six Months

BK1008101590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry held a conference on 3 and 4 August to review work related to food processing, export and import, and capital construction in the first half of 1990. During the first six months of this year, all establishments in the sector tried to overcome difficulties concerning funds, raw materials, and unstable market prices in a bid to fulfill their production and business plans. As a result, the sector attained a value of gross output of nearly 4 billion dong. This figure represents 43.5 percent of the annual plan and shows an increase of 10 percent over the same period last year. The sector also netted more than 173 million rubles and dollars [as heard] from exports and 23.7 billion dong from capital construction, and turned in 140 billion dong to the state budget.

Many units of the sector—such as the Union of Tobacco Enterprises and the Union of Milk and Coffee Enterprises—were reported to have achieved a high output. The quality of some products was not inferior to that of imported products. Eight of the 20 items of exported goods produced high revenues.

At present, however, some 30 percent of its units are still doing business at a loss. Their products cannot be sold out and are of poor quality, and they have made little progress in technical improvement. Many of them still do not know how to make a study to expand their markets and still fail to invest appropriately in the purchase of new equipment or to pay attention to the replacement of old equipment.

In the last six months of this year, the sector will strive to attain a value of gross output of more than 5.6 billion dong. This is to ensure that the value of gross output for 1990 will reach 9.6 billion dong, an increase of 10 percent over 1989.

To achieve this target, the sector has set forth guidelines and concrete measures for all establishments, which involve defining the market for their products, paying attention to work related to accounting and business transactions, amassing capital for the replacement of technical equipment, improving the quality of products, and continuing to reorganize production.

Hanoi Reports 444 Criminals Surrendered in Jul

BK1208120790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] Since implementing Directive No. 135-HDBT, more and more criminals have given themselves up to the authorities. In July alone, 444 criminals turned themselves in to the authorities throughout the country. Among them, 13 were charged with murder, 13 with robbery, and 12 with economic charges.

Many localities have creatively and skillfully employed various methods of persuading criminals to turn themseves in to the authorities through the help of relatives, social organizations, or respectable people. The method of relying on respectable people to educate and convince criminals has brought about the best results.

However, the task of persuading criminals to give themselves up still has not been carried out consistently or actively among various localities. Some localities have not yet paid attention to combining the suppression of criminals with the effort to encourage them to give themselves up.

There are many people who performed acts detrimental to the country's security and economy or who committed other serious crimes. Nevertheless, just a few of them have turned themselves in to the authorities.

1,053 Criminals Arrested in Tay Ninh in Jul

BK1408065990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] In July Tay Ninh Province launched a crackdown on thieves, robbers, drug addicts, prostitutes, and smugglers at 19 of the 22 points along the border and in various key areas.

The local public security forces arrested 1,053 criminals, including 15 armed robbers, and seized large quantities of guns, ammunition, and other weapons. Meanwhile, inspection teams confiscated 589 video tapes, seven video players, and 565 books with decadent and reactionary contents.

In inspecting 28,000 households, the provincial public security forces revealed thousands of illegal residents. They also discovered many smuggling rings and groups of black marketeers, recovering dozens of taels [one tael is equivalent to 37.5 grams] of gold, 43 Honda motorcycles, 42,800 packs of foreign cigarettes, and nearly $30,000 in cash. The security forces also collected tens of millions of dong from fines imposed on petty offenses.

Agricultural Production Reported Nationwide

BK1108085790 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 11—Farmers in southern provinces have so far harvested summer-autumn rice on 104,880 hectares, about 37 percent of the area under such crop.

The Mekong Delta provinces alone gathered rice on 284,950 hectares, more than 32 percent of their cultivated area.

By August 5, peasants throughout the country had planted 1,755,330 hectares of summer rice, of which (?1,236,330) hectares were in northern provinces and 519,000 in southern provinces.

In this summer crop, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry plans to provide peasants with 602,000 tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Nationwide Insect Damage to Crops Reported

BK1108035790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The Vegetation Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry reported that due to the recent adverse weather conditions, many types of harmful insects have appeared and damaged rice crops in various localities.

More than 30,000 hectares of summer-fall rice in Hai Hung, Ha Bac, Haiphong, and Ha Son Binh Provinces were damaged by rice hispas, while almost 20,000 hectares in the Mekong River Delta provinces were destroyed by cotton leaf rollers. Minh Hai Province experienced heavy losses caused by these insects with a density of 200 per square meter. In the Mekong River Delta, aphelenchoides oryzae damaged 25,000 hectares of rice, while rice leaf yellows destroyed 1,000 hectares in Quang Nam-Danang Province.

It is predicted that from now to mid-August stem borers will spread in northern provinces, the number of young worms will be increased in summer-fall and 10th-month rice fields, and rice hispas and armyworms will damage the early 10th-month rice crop in localities.

Australia

Evans Says No Combat Role for Ships in Gulf

BK1508051390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Sydney, Aug 15 (AFP)—The two guided missile frigates Australia has dispatched to the Gulf are not expected to be involved in actual combat, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday.

In an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, he described the role of the HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Darwin as one of "identification, contact, interrogation and warning of relevant vessels," not involving "the next step, which is actual physical interdiction." If the Australian ships receive an unsatisfactory response from a vessel, they will let it pass and notify U.S. Navy units that will then take "appropriate action," he said.

Mr. Evans also rejected criticism by a former captain of the HMAS Adelaide about the capacity of the two frigates to participate in the gulf blockade.

Commander Gerry McLennan, captain of the Adelaide from 1985 to 1987 and now retired, said Tuesday the frigates had been designed to operate alongside more capable ships such as aircraft carriers and destroyers, and not alone in confined waters. He said they were not designed "to go into close-in waters and shoot it out with missile vessels or missile-armed aircraft." "Some of their equipment—particularly the anti-missile decoys—is quite obsolescent," Mr. Mclennan said.

The Australian Navy's chief staff officer for operations, Captain Timothy Cox, said the ships had been kept up to date and had a "good layered air defence capability." It was inaccurate to describe their defence weapons as obsolete, Capt. Cox said.

Mr. Evans said the Navy had total confidence in the suitability of the frigates for the role and brushed aside Mr. McLennan's criticism as typical of "retired naval buffs." But he said the government would review the role "if it became apparent that some different degree of operational involvement was required for the total force to be effective."

Australia's role, he said, "puts our money very much where our mouth is." "It doesn't involve us just in steaming around... bristling," he said. "It does involve us in an active interventionist role in the Gulf, which is what the prime minister has committed us to. "And it's one that is squarely part of a total blockade or interdiction strategy, whichever way you care to describe it," he said.

Ships May Operate Under UN Flag

BK1508072190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says there is every chance Australian ships will operate under United Nations flag by the time they reach the Gulf. Two Australian frigates and a supply ship are on their way to the Gulf.

Senator Evans was commenting on a meeting of the UN Security Council which could pave the way for the multinational task force in the Gulf to sail under the UN flag. Australia has already said it would prefer that arrangement.

In the meantime, Australian and defense officials are working on the command and control for the Australian ships in the Gulf.

Poll Supports Decision To Send Ships to Gulf

BK1408132390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Sydney, Aug 14 (AFP)—A poll to be published Wednesday by Sydney's DAILY TELEGRAPH indicates Australians support by almost two to one the decision to send Royal Australian Navy warships to the Gulf.

The first opinion poll by a major Australian newspaper was completed as the cabinet endorsed the decision by Prime Minister Bob Hawke to order ships to the Gulf in response to a request by U.S. President George Bush. The poll also showed, however, that many respondents had qualms about the long-term outcome of committing forces to the Gulf conflict.

It was taken the day after the guided missile frigates HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Darwin were given a send-off from a Sydney dockyard by Mr. Hawke. By late afternoon the poll showed 1,379 people in favour of the decision and 743 against, contrasting with a poll in the Arab newspaper EL TELEGRAPH indicating 82 per cent of the migrant Arab community opposed the decision. DAILY TELEGRAPH editor David Banks said Tuesday his poll was believed to be the best available measure of community attitudes to the decision to send the ships.

Meanwhile eight soldiers—experts in air defence—were attached to the crew of the Royal Australian Navy supply ship HMAS Success bound for the Gulf to reinforce its defences, a government spokesman said. The soldiers, specialists in shoulder-fired air defence missiles, were needed to boost the close-in air defences of the success, which does not have a sophisticated anti-aircraft missile system.

The Australian involvement has been condemned by the Australian Arabic Islamic community which said it would only serve to divide Australian society. In a statement issued after a meeting of prominent members of the Australian Arab community Sunday, the group said the majority of the Islamic community was disappointed with the federal government's decision to send Naval forces to the Gulf. If Australia sustained casualties in the conflict, they said, it would lead to hatred and create a split in the internal social structure of the community,

The meeting also called on Arab governments to be responsible, to "liberate themselves from American subordination and to resolve their own differences in defence of their own dignity and in order to spare their people's blood."

Meanwhile an Egyptian-born interpreter with the Royal Australian Navy warned that Australian servicemen heading to the Middle East would face "fanatical soldiers willing to fight to the death". The Egyptian-born interpreter, Royal Australian Air Force Sergeant Sam Halim, 39, a cultural adviser for the campaign, said some battle-hardened Moslem Iraqi soldiers saw death in battle as martyrdom. "They fight to die in order to go to paradise," said Sgt. Halim who will join HMAS Darwin as an adviser next Monday. "So you have to fight hard. They won't give you a chance."

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs was considering Tuesday whether to advise Australians stranded in Kuwait to go to Baghdad following reports of looting and deterioration of essential services in Kuwait. A spokesman said the department was looking at the option as it would mean the Australian Embassy in Baghdad would be better able to keep tabs on Australians trapped in the region. Australia has no diplomatic mission in Kuwait and has been relying mainly on the British Embassy to look after the interests of the 60 Australians estimated to be in the country.

The New South Wales branch of Prime Minister Hawke's own Labor Party condemned his decision to send sailors to the Gulf, saying the United Nations Security Council was "the appropriate mechanism for the resolution of conflict".

Fiji

'Prominent' Lawyer Criticizes Constitution

BK1208041690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0357 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Suva, Aug 12 (AFP)—Fiji's recently adopted constitution gave the government power to override fundamental freedoms whenever it wanted, a prominent lawyer said in a magazine out this weekend. Miles Johnson, former president of the Fiji Law Society, was quoted in ISLANDS BUSINESS magazine as saying that a provision in the constitution meant that the government could "not only override fundamental freedoms but also prevent courts from interfering."

Fiji's opposition has already slammed the constitution as "racist" because it guarantees indigenous Fijians political power over ethnic Indians.

The new constitution was promulgated in July to replace the 1970 document torn up after military coups in 1987 toppled an Indian-dominated government.

Mr. Johnson said Section 162 in the new document "has its origins in the constitutions of countries like Malaysia and Singapore, which have grubby records in the field of civil liberties." The section gives the government scope to wave the chapter on guarantees of fundamental freedoms, he said.

"It is possible to legislate about anything so long as the law says somewhere something is being threatened. The provision says this threatened action is to excite dissatisfaction against the government or that it is prejudicial to the security of Fiji."

The "implications are obvious" for Fiji's minority racial groups like the ethnic Indians, Chinese, and part-Europeans who only have small representation in parliament, Mr. Johnson said.

Fiji's government expects to hold elections in 1991. The country's military leader, Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the 1987 coups, said he prefered elections in 1992.

Indigenous Fijians are promised 37 seats compared with 22 before, ethnic Indians 27 (22 before), Polynesian Rotumans one (none before) and Chinese and part-Europeans five (eight before).

Fiji's opposition, which has threatened to boycott elections under the racially weighted constitution, fears that the new document will permanently displace Indians from power.